

ELECTRICITY GREEN ACTIONS

FREE & LOW COST

- turn lights off when you leave a room
- replace all incandescent bulbs with LED bulbs
- use solar powered lights for landscape
- use motion lights instead of keeping outdoor lights on all night

- choose EnergyStar rated electronics when replacing items
- use SMART powerstrips (ex, for entertainment systems)
- unplug (and turn off) devices that are charged or not in use
- use a power strip to turn off monitors and computers when not in use
- turn off devices that tend to be on 24x7 (ex, cable box)

- unplug appliances when not in use (toaster, coffee maker, hairdryer)
- choose EnergyStar rated appliances when replacing items
- maintain appliances for maximum efficiency (ex, remove dust from under/behind refrigerators, remove ice buildup in freezers)

- only run dishwasher, washer, clothes dryer when you have a full load
- line dry clothes

- talk to your family/roommates; get everyone on-board
- do an [electricity audit](#)
- schedule an Energy Audit from [MassSave](#) (or ask your landlord to have one)

COOLING YOUR HOME:

- close drapes/blinds during day
- if using AC, set temperature at 72 degrees or warmer
- central air? use programmable thermostat to allow warmer temperatures when not home
- window AC units? program them to run only when you need them
- use fans instead of AC when possible
- open windows on cooler days or overnight (don't leave central air on automatically)
- use the outdoor grill instead of heating the kitchen

- eat cold meals in summer to avoid heating kitchen
- run bathroom fan after shower (reduces humidity/heat without AC)

GREENER OPTIONS

Solar power is a great option to not only generate 100% clean electricity but to also save significantly on your electricity bill.

Unfortunately it does not work for all homes, apartment buildings, or commercial buildings. Many factors need to be considered. Factors like, will the panels get direct sunlight and is the roof large enough to provide enough panels to make a difference.

Also, various financial arrangements are available, but they generally fall into the buy or lease categories. Often when people purchase the solar panels outright, they see a payback in 4-7 years.

Fortunately, we have expert solar coaches that can walk you through the decision process and can recommend 3 solar installers for you to talk to if your home or building is a good solar candidate.

- talk to a Green Beverly coach about the possibility of putting solar on your roof

COSTS A LITTLE MORE

- install an air source heat pump for the most efficient cooling
- install a smart meter to analyze your usage
- install a home battery to be used during power outages (versus a generator)

Resources:

- Electricity audit from Path To A Green Home <http://pathtoagreenhome.com>
- Mass Save <https://www.masssave.com/>
- “The 6 Best Home Battery Storage Systems of 2021“
<https://www.treehugger.com/best-home-battery-storage-systems-5192244>
- MassSave Heat Pump Rebates:
https://www.masssave.com/en/saving/residential-rebates/heat-pump?gclid=Cj0KCQjwIOMLBhCHARIsAGiJg7kP56aP-fJNBmMbm4FQEPm5r76v7GhtSRqEi6y6MBP7rTtBrw4MJ0UaArOrEALw_wcB
- Heat Pump Buying Guide (Consumer Reports):
<https://www.consumerreports.org/cro/heat-pumps/buying-guide/index.htm>

Stats & Information:

A cable box that is plugged in 24 hours per day uses more power than a dryer that is on 1 hour per day, or a microwave that is on 20 minutes per day, or a refrigerator that is on 24 hours per day.

Even though we use fossil fuels to generate electricity today, the reliance on fossil fuels is decreasing and eventually our electricity will be generated with 100% clean energy.

Switching out incandescent lights for LEDs saves 85%

The Beverly community solar farm on the former landfill includes 12,250 solar PV panels covering 14.3 acres, producing enough electricity to power 745 homes for a year (100+ are Beverly homes). 37% of the energy credits from this site are subscribed to Beverly Public Schools. Unfortunately the site is completely sold out.