



USE CLEAN ENERGY

Efficiency can save money and improve health

The amount of greenhouse gas emissions generated by buildings is second only to transportation. Burning of oil, natural gas, and coal is at the root of the climate crisis so everything we do to reduce and eliminate their use at home will help. It is vital that we transition to use clean energy based on sun and wind where possible. The good news is these energy sources are now lower cost.

Locally, 59% of home natural gas use is used for water heaters, 29% for heating, 7% for cooking. Reduction of natural gas use in these three areas will yield biggest climate benefits. There are also health reasons to replace natural gas at home. For example, children growing up in a home with natural gas have 42% risk of more asthma symptoms. Gas stoves emit methane, a very destructive greenhouse gas, even when not in use.

Switching to heat pump powered water heaters is 3.5x more energy efficient than a traditional electric or a gas water heater. Replacing a gas furnace with a heat pump space heater to heat your building also serves as an extremely efficient air conditioner in the summer months.

Take Action

- 1 Do an energy audit to see the best ways to reduce your home's energy use. <https://bit.ly/3Ag99Mc>
- 2 Install a heat pump for both heating and cooling. <https://bit.ly/3QNOiXr>
- 3 Install a heat pump hot water heater.
- 4 Install energy-efficient retrofits including additional insulation and windows.
- 5 Use an electric induction stove top for cooking for your health and the climate.
- 6 Use a clothesline to dry your clothes, or an electric clothes dryer.
- 7 Plant shade trees in strategic locations to cool your home naturally.
- 8 If your electricity provider, such as Clean Energy Alliance, offers a 100% clean energy option, please choose it.
- 9 Learn about microgrids. These are a way to power to a building based on solar panels and batteries at your home or at your child's school. <https://microgridknowledge.com/microgrid-defined/>
- 10 To reduce emissions from driving, consider walking, biking, or public transit when you can. E-bikes make a great car replacement for local trips. If you must drive, combine your trips, travel with others, and choose an efficient electric for your next vehicle.

For more information visit our website: www.sierraclubncg.org/home/sierra-club-at-home-resilience-project/

