

Green Your Home

Reduce, reuse, and recycle

If there is a recycling program in your community, try recycling your newspapers, beverage containers, paper products and other goods. (Wood County Clean Sweep) Use products in containers that can be recycled. In addition, support recycling markets by buying products made from recycled materials. Reducing, reusing, and recycling in your home helps conserve energy and reduces pollution and greenhouse gases from resource extraction, manufacturing, and disposal .

Heat and cool smartly

Cleaning air filters regularly and having your heating and cooling equipment tuned annually by a professional contractor can increase comfort at home, and at the same time reduce energy use and global warming pollution. When it's time to replace your old equipment, choose a higher efficiency model, and make sure it is properly sized and installed. In the summer open your windows at night and turn off the air conditioner, then close the windows in the morning when you wake up. Replace old thermostats with programmable ones. Remember to recycle toxic Mercury.

Seal and insulate your home

A home energy auditor can help you find air leaks and areas with poor insulation and can evaluate the overall energy efficiency of your home. By taking these steps, you can eliminate drafts, keep your home more comfortable year round, save energy that would otherwise be wasted, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Energy efficient homes save money and retain their value better.

Use water efficiently

Municipal water systems require a lot of energy to purify and distribute water to households. Saving water, especially hot water, can lower greenhouse gas emissions. Look for products with EPA's WaterSense label. These products save water and perform as well or better than their less efficient counterparts. Be smart when irrigating your lawn or landscape. Water only when needed and during the coolest part of the day (early morning is best). **Turn the water off while shaving or brushing teeth.** Fix leaks, leaks are just unacceptable. Save rain water to irrigate outside plants.

Use green power

Green power is environmentally friendly generated from renewable energy sources such as wind and the sun. There are two ways to use green power: you can buy green power or you can modify your house to generate your own green power. Buying green power is easy. It offers a number of environmental and economic benefits over conventional electricity and helps to increase clean energy supply. There are a number of steps you can take to create a greener home, including installing solar water heaters or boosters, and installing photo voltaic solar panels and researching incentives for renewable energy in your state.