

## October Climate Changemaker Tips: Energy Efficiency

*The Theme for October is Energy Efficiency*

October 6 Topic: Financing, Incentives, and Assistance for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

NC State's [DSIRE®](#) is a good place to start looking for information on incentives and policies that support renewables and energy efficiency in the US. By clicking on Nebraska on the map, you will find, for example:

- rebates available under the [Lincoln Electric System - Sustainable Energy Program](#),
- [Federal residential energy tax credit](#) available for Water Heaters, Furnaces, Boilers, Heat pumps, Air conditioners, Duct/Air sealing, Building Insulation, Windows, Doors, and Roofs, and
- [Plug-In Electric Drive Vehicle Tax Credit](#)

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October 13 topic: Prepare Yourself for When Electricity Goes Out

FEMA – [Prepare Yourself for a Power Outage](#)

- Plan for alternative sources: portable charger or power bank; have flashlights for everyone; determine if home phone will work when power is out. Never use generators indoors.
- Disconnect appliances and electronics; install CO monitor with battery backup in central locations on every level.
- Food storage: keep refrigerator and freezer closed. frig keeps for 4 hours freezer 48 hours. For extra safety, monitor temp to be below 40-deg. Keep a few days supply of non-perishables and water.
- Medical needs: make plans for any medical devices needing power or medicines needing refrigeration, particularly those critical for life – get specific guidance on how long it can survive at higher temperature.

The National Grid Group has [12 tips to prepare for a power cut](#)

[This Red Cross website](#) also has useful advice on how to prepare for power outage

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October 20 topic: What to Know Before You Purchase an Electric Vehicle

Now is a good time to consider buying new or used electric vehicles (EVs) because as the competition heats up, the costs are coming down for EVs with a range of 200-300 miles. The

network of charging stations is also growing rapidly across the US. The single most-comprehensive source of information on EVs is the US Department of Energy (DOE) [website](#).

To help you make an informed choice, you may consult the buying guides from [cars.com](#), [Consumer Reports](#), and [Union of Concerned Scientists](#). [This Washington Post article](#) includes a [decision tree](#) by Energy Innovation to tell if you and your vehicle qualify for federal incentives. This information is also available at the [Alternative Fuel Data Center website](#) of the US DOE, along with easy-to-understand differences between electric vehicle, plug-in hybrid electric vehicles, and hybrid electric vehicles.

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October 27 topic: What You Can Learn from Lincoln's Electric Vehicle Readiness Plan

Do you know that:

- The transportation sector accounts for the largest – 27% – of the total green-house-gas (GHG) emissions and that more than half of that amount comes from light duty vehicles?
- There has been an exponential increase in the number of registered electric vehicles in the Lincoln area, from nearly zero in 2012 to 1,400 as of December 2022?
- As of October 2022, there were 47 publicly available EV charging station locations in the Lincoln area, including 111 Level 2 (L2) chargers, and 26 Level 3 (L3) Direct Current Fast Chargers (DCFC)?

These statistics come from [Lincoln's Electric Vehicle Readiness Plan](#), which was developed by Lincoln's Climate Smart Collaborative (CSC), a team of the City of Lincoln, Lincoln Public Schools (LPS), The University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL), and Lincoln Electric Service (LES), and Lancaster County. According to the document:

The primary purpose of this plan is to identify actionable strategies to leverage EV technologies in pursuit of the climate, sustainability, and quality of life goals of the CSC. The objective is to facilitate member action and community support that will help the CSC members lead the way toward EV adoption, and more equitable benefits of reduced GHG emissions.

If you do not plan to own an electric vehicle, there is a section in the EV Readiness Plan which discusses electrified public transit and electric bicycles & scooters.

*Sunday, October Climate Changemaker Tips*

*October 6: Financing, Incentives, and Assistance for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy*

*October 13: Prepare Yourself for When Electricity Goes Out*

*October 20: What to Know Before You Purchase an Electric Vehicle*

*October 29: What You Can Learn from Lincoln's Electric Vehicle Readiness Plan*