

September Climate Changemaker Tips: Energy Efficiency

Friday, September 1: Arrange for a Home Energy Audit

The US Department of Energy's website [Tips on Saving Money and Energy in Your Home](#) is a most useful resource on this topic.

A certified auditor can evaluate your home to identify and prioritize the recommended energy-saving improvements for a nominal fee. Even a simple audit can provide an easy-to-understand assessment called Home Energy Score (here is a [sample](#)). LES has one employee who does home energy efficiency walk through at no cost. Visit [homeenergyscore.gov](#) or [American Society of Home Inspectors](#) to find a certified auditor near you.

Energy-efficient upgrades suggested by an audit can be as simple as switching to LED lights, to weather stripping, spray foam insulation, replacing windows, & doors, or upgrading water heater, furnace, and heat pump. Many energy efficiency upgrades qualify for rebates under the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)

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Friday, September 8: Heating and Cooling Homes Efficiently

The average energy bill of a household in the US is \$2,200. Nearly a half of it goes to heating and cooling costs. So, it pays to make smart decisions about your home's heating, ventilating, and air conditioning (HVAC) system, not only to improve comfort at home but also help fight global warming: the energy used in the home accounts for twice as much greenhouse emissions of an average car.

The good news is that you have access to great resources as you make decisions to upgrade your HVAC system. Energy Star's [Guide to Energy-Efficient Heating and Cooling](#) can help you:

- Learn how best to maintain your heating and cooling equipment.
- Take steps around your home to improve the efficiency of your HVAC system.
- Decide when it's time to replace your old heating and cooling equipment with more energy-efficient equipment that has earned EPA's ENERGY STAR.

Now is also a good time to do the upgrade because of the new [Federal Income Tax Credits and Incentives for Energy Efficiency](#) available under the Inflation Reduction Act.:

New federal income tax credits are available through 2032 providing up to \$3,200 annually to lower the cost of energy efficient home upgrades by up to 30 percent. Improvements such as installing heat pumps, heat pump water heaters, insulation, doors and windows, as well as electrical panel upgrades, home energy audits and more, are covered by the tax credits.

See also, *Heat and Cool Your Home Efficiently* in the [Energy Saver Guide](#).

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Friday, September 15: Design Your Home for Energy Efficiency

The basic elements of an energy efficient home are a well-constructed and tightly sealed thermal envelope; controlled ventilation; properly sized, high-efficiency heating and cooling systems; and energy-efficient doors, windows, and appliances ([DOE](#), [Bankrate](#)). Other features such as landscaping passive solar design, and [cool roofs](#) can also save you energy and money. You will find reliable information on these topics in the US DOE's [Energy Saver Guide](#).

If you are designing a new home, the [ENERGY STAR Certified New Homes](#), [Zero Energy Ready Home](#), and [Extremely Energy Efficient Homes](#) are good sources of information. If you are remodeling, consider the suggestions in the [No Regrets Remodeling](#) guide.

Lincoln Electric System's [Sustainable Energy Program](#) provides financial incentives to residential and business customers to make energy-efficient improvements, such as, whole-house sealing and insulation, high-efficiency heat pumps and air conditioners, and heat-pump water heaters.

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Friday, September 22: Save on Energy Use in Your Home

Join the [Peak Rewards from Lincoln Electric System](#) and receive a one-time \$25 e-gift card per [eligible thermostat](#). The program is designed to reward you for reducing your electricity use during periods of high demand, while helping the community manage energy more efficiently.

Read [EnergyGuide labels and look for ENERGY-STAR certification](#) when buying energy-consuming products. Use these online tools for comparison shopping: [Energystar.gov](#), [EnergySaver.gov](#), and [eeCompass](#).

Use the [Energy Saver Guide](#) for additional tips on buying and using appliances and products for your kitchen, laundry room, and home office and lighting your home.

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Friday, September 29: Save Money and Energy on Vehicles and Fuels

You can save money and energy on vehicles and fuels by visiting the [official US Government source for fuel economy information](#). It has tips on:<https://afdc.energy.gov/stations/-/find/nearest>

- [Finding and comparing cars](#)
- [Gas mileage tips](#)
- [Fuel cost calculator](#)
- [Locate the nearest alternative fueling station](#)

and much more.

Sunday, September Climate Changemaker Tips

September 3: Weekly Climate Changemaker Tip: Arrange for a Home Energy Audit

September 10: Weekly Climate Changemaker Tip: Heat and Cool Your Home Efficiently

September 17: Weekly Climate Changemaker Tip: Design or Remodel Your Home for Energy Efficiency

September 24: Weekly Climate Changemaker Tip: Save on Energy Use in Your Home

October 1: Weekly Climate Changemaker Tip: Save Money and Energy on Vehicles and Fuels