

Energy Savings Opportunities for Renovation Projects

Ideas and Resources from the Center Harbor Energy Committee (CHEC)

If you are thinking about home renovation, this document can provide you with basic ideas to consider and steps to take for greater energy efficiency and cost savings. The websites listed below provide online resources for the most current, expert advice as well as information about rebates you may be eligible for.

Getting started: Visit the following websites for expert, up-to-date advice.

NHSaves - Visit: <https://www.nhsaves.com/save-home/>

Examples of NHSaves ENERGY STAR program opportunities include

Provides home energy audits for \$100, which is then credited toward energy improvements

Pays for 50% of energy improvements up to \$4,000

Low or no interest financing may be available

State of NH Office of Strategic Initiatives - Visit:

<https://www.nh.gov/osi/energy/programs/index.htm>

New Hampshire Electric Coop (NHEC) – Visit:

<https://www.nhec.com/small-steps-big-savings/at-home/>

Consider making Renovation changes in the following areas:

Energy Star Appliances: Replacing older appliances will save in electric use and you can get rebates in 2018 as noted below:

Electric Dryers	\$40 - \$200
Washers	\$25 - \$50
Dehumidifiers	\$25
Refrigerators	\$40 - \$75 and free haul away
Room Air Conditioners	\$20
Room Air Purifiers	\$40

Heating and Cooling:

Install smart/programmable thermostats. You can save \$50+ per year on energy bills.

NHSaves offers rebates for efficient Heating and Cooling Systems.

NHSaves has specific incentives including financing and funding.

Consider advanced or alternative heating/cooling systems (e.g., solar and heat pump technologies). NHSaves and NHEC websites provide more information.

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Install Insulation and Caulking in the following areas: (Air leaks can waste a lot of energy dollars. They let in hot air during warmer months and drafts during the cooler season. Caulking, sealing and weather stripping is one of the quickest energy- and money-saving improvements you can make.)

Walls, attics, foundations and concrete slab

Attic hatches and access doors to unheated areas

Air leaks where plumbing, ducts or electrical wires penetrate the exterior walls, floors and ceilings

Insulate hot & cold water pipes; the hot to save energy, the cold to prevent condensation issues

Lighting Opportunities

LED bulbs save 70-90% of lighting costs, compared to incandescent bulbs. NHSaves has significant online savings and store rebates available. Light quality and color choices can make dramatic improvements.

Under-cabinet LED lights in the kitchen saves money and directs light to tasks performed.

Dimmer switches save energy and extend the life of light bulbs.

Low-voltage lighting for outside illumination.

For outdoor security lights, lights with motion detectors only come on when needed.

Water Heating Water heating accounts for as much as 20% of your utility bill.

Consider an on-demand water heater or a solar hot water system.

Install low-flow shower heads and faucet aerators.

Windows

Storm windows can help block drafts and heat loss.

Think about replacing old windows and doors with energy efficient ones.

(If your home windows are old and/or inefficient, new, energy-efficient replacement windows eventually pay for themselves through lower heating and cooling costs, and sometimes even lighting costs.)

New Home Construction? Many of these tips are applicable when designing a new home. For further information on new home construction, consult NHSaves at <https://www.nhsaves.com/save-home/save-more/new-home-construction/> and the Energy Star government New Homes website: <https://www.energystar.gov/newhomes>.

Need help? Interested in learning more? Contact your volunteer Center Harbor Energy Committee at chec@metrocast.net