

# Tap Rebates, Save on Energy Efficiency Upgrades

Don't put off energy efficiency home upgrades just because of upfront costs.

You can save by tapping Federal, state, and local rebates and incentives.

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Search for rebates and incentives for energy efficiency or renewable system installations (think solar panels) at Database of State Incentives for Renewables and Efficiency at [dsireusa.org](http://dsireusa.org).

## Local freebies

Many local utility companies have developed online questionnaires and calculators to help you identify potential savings from making energy efficiency improvements. Some utilities even offer credits to customers using smart thermostats or Energy Star appliances.

Others even offer free removal of old refrigerators and money when you opt for energy efficient models. And some provide free or low cost energy audits to determine the projects that would help you slash your energy consumption.

You also may find free or discounted products—light bulbs, programmable thermostats, shower heads, and sink aerators. Still others offer demand pricing strategies (sometimes called hourly pricing, dynamic pricing, and real-time pricing) to help you save. Check your local utility company's website for different available programs – and bookmark that site. Many utility programs require you to opt-in.

## Comfort today, selling edge tomorrow

By investing in energy efficiency enhancements today, you can reap both short and long-term gains that include reducing your monthly utility bills, boosting home performance, and improving your family's health and comfort.

And since home buyers increasingly factor energy efficiency into their decision-making, these upgrades could provide a marketing edge when you sell your house.

Consider this: 60 percent of consumers are interested in a home's sustainability, according to the 2017 REALTORS® and Sustainability report by the National Association of REALTORS®.

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REALTORS® who have earned National Association of REALTORS® Green Designation ([www.greenresourcecouncil.org](http://www.greenresourcecouncil.org)) can refer you to local experts who can assess your home's performance.

