



Meet Affordability and Climate Goals through Residential Energy Efficiency

In the U.S., residential buildings account for 21% of total energy consumption. Household expenditures for energy exceed \$219 billion per year, with household energy costs averaging \$1,856 per year. Local governments can develop and implement a range of programs and strategies to reduce residential energy use in their communities. Furthermore, lowering residential energy costs can contribute to other local government objectives, including housing affordability, energy reliability, improvements in health outcomes, updated aging housing infrastructure, investments in clean energy, and workforce and economic development.

The Energy Department now has an online guide for local governments on six actionable strategies to address residential energy efficiency. These strategies are listed below.

- 1 Address Residential Energy Use in Local Planning
- 2 Adopt Residential Building Energy Codes & Standards
- 3 Start a Home Energy Labeling Program
- 4 Enable Financing for Residential Efficiency Upgrades
- 5 Offer Incentive to Make Efficiency More Affordable
- 6 Upgrade the Efficiency of Affordable Housing in Your Community

Energy Efficiency Improvements



Help reduce costs

Energy burdens average higher than both property taxes and home insurance.



Are a smart investment

Efficiency features pay back via energy savings over time.

Improve quality of life

Efficiency features make homes more comfortable places to live.



Can improve health outcomes



Increase comfort



Reduce environmental impact



Increase reliability for peace of mind



Reduce drafts



Enable residents to control their homes

Content for Each Highlighted Strategy

Each of the six strategies listed above has a dedicated web page with the following content included.

Introduction to the Strategy

- ▶ Brief introductory text detailing the major principles of the strategy and how it can be used to improve residential energy efficiency

Stakeholders & Potential Collaborators

- ▶ List of potential organizations, stakeholder groups, and businesses that should be included when a local government is planning to implement a given strategy

List of Tools

- ▶ Software, plug-and-play programs, and data management systems that enable public sector programs to begin without reinventing the wheel

List of Resources

- ▶ Toolkits, published guides, and written resources that help communities walk through the steps of implementing this strategy
- ▶ Features U.S. DOE resources first, followed by other organization's resources

Local Government Examples

- ▶ Brief descriptions of local governments having implemented this strategy already
- ▶ Links to more information and to local government websites
- ▶ Usually 3-5 local government examples per strategy

How Can this Resource Be More Useful?

This web resource is both live and living – it is available online today, and can be updated as more tools, resources, local government examples, and actionable strategies become available. To learn more about any of the resources featured or suggest resources that could be added, reach out to betterbuildings@ee.doe.gov and someone from the team will be in touch.

Content Highlights from Strategy 3: Start a Home Energy Labeling Program

Home energy labeling programs and policies allow local governments to provide reliable, standardized information to residents about homes' estimated energy use. In addition to energy use estimates, home energy labels can provide an estimate of a home's energy costs, as well as recommendations for energy-saving improvements that can make the home more comfortable and less expensive to run. This information helps homeowners, buyers, sellers, and renters make informed decisions about home purchases, rentals, or upgrades they can make.

Local governments can use home energy labels to promote transparency of energy information in the real estate market, requiring a label to be provided in real estate listings, at time of sale/rental, or when upgrades are made. Additionally, the home energy information that is typically collected in order to generate a home energy label can provide local governments with a better understanding of the conditions of local housing stock, helping to target resources where most needed.

Tools

- ▶ Home Energy Score™
- ▶ Standard Energy Efficiency Data (SEED) Platform™
- ▶ Home Energy Information eXchange (HELIX)
- ▶ Green Building Registry®

Resources

- ▶ Using Home Energy Score in Residential Energy Efficiency Programs (Webinar)
- ▶ Home Energy Labeling: A Guide for State & Local Governments
- ▶ Home Energy Information Accelerator Toolkit
- ▶ Benchmarking & Transparency: Resources for State and Local Governments
- ▶ City HELP™

Local Government Examples

- ▶ Berkeley, California
- ▶ Columbia, Missouri
- ▶ Minneapolis, Minnesota
- ▶ Portland, Oregon
- ▶ San Francisco Bay Area, California