




















Home Energy Checklist

10 actions to take at home to save money and lower your carbon footprint

Action	Cost Up Front	Yearly Savings	CO2e Reduction <small>(lbs per year)</small>
1 Estimate your current carbon footprint using an online calculator. Write down your current yearly emissions.	 Free	Does Not Apply	Does Not Apply
2 Reserve a thermal camera and a free energy efficiency kit from a Fairfax County public library to give you a head start with DIY home energy solutions.	 Free	Does Not Apply	Does Not Apply
3 Adjust your thermostat up or down a few degrees during the summer (78F degrees) and winter months (68F degrees) to reduce energy used by air conditioning and heating.	 Free	\$ \$160	 1,700
4 Wash your clothes in cold water instead of hot water to save energy on water heating.	 Free	\$ \$40	 400
5 Replace your HVAC filters regularly and set a reminder roughly every 3 months. Your HVAC uses more energy if the filter is clogged or dirty. Most filters should be replaced every 3 months.	 \$50	\$ \$130	 950
6 Replace your incandescent and CFL bulbs with LED light bulbs , which are much more energy-efficient while producing the same light.	 \$70	\$ \$160	 1,400
7 Find and fix water leaks. A faucet leaking 1 drip per minute wastes 3,000 gallons per year. Saving water reduces emissions because energy is used to treat and distribute water.	 \$250	\$\$ \$700	 10
8 Hire a professional to conduct an energy assessment of your home to see where improvements can be made. Tax credits for energy assessments (audits) are available.	 \$500	Depends on actions taken	Depends on actions taken
9 Hire a trusted contractor to upgrade your home's insulation , if your insulation is not sufficient. Tax credits for insulation upgrades are available.	 \$2,000	\$ \$300	 3,500
10 Use ENERGY STAR models when it's time to replace your heat pump, refrigerator, furnace or windows.	 \$5,000+	\$\$\$ \$1,000+	 10K+



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Key: Use this key to help you decide which actions are right for you.

Cost Up Front	Free	\$1 - \$500	\$500- \$1,000	\$1,000+
Yearly Savings	Does Not Apply	\$1 - \$500	\$500- \$1,000	\$1,000+
Co2 Equivalent Reduction	Does Not Apply	1 - 500 lbs	500- 1,000 lbs	1,000+ lbs

(Note: Estimates were made based on an average household of 3 in Fairfax County)

Want more climate actions?
View the full
Climate Action Checklist,
with 70+ items:



[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/
environment-energy-
coordination/resources-residents](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/environment-energy-coordination/resources-residents)

Resources: Use the below links to learn more about home energy efficiency measures.

* denotes links with information about tax credits and incentives

1. Carbon Footprint Calculator

- o <https://www3.epa.gov/carbon-footprint-calculator/>

2. Energy Efficiency Kit

- o <https://research.fairfaxcounty.gov/lot/thermal-cameras>
- o <https://research.fairfaxcounty.gov/lot/conserve>

3. Thermostat Settings

- o <https://www.energy.gov/energysaver/spring-and-summer-energy-saving-tips>
- o <https://www.energy.gov/energysaver/articles/thermostat-savings-winter>

4. Cold Water Washing

- o <https://www.energy.gov/energysaver/articles/16-ways-save-money-laundry-room>

5. HVAC Filters

- o <https://www.energy.gov/energysaver/maintaining-your-air-conditioner>

6. LED Lightbulbs

- o https://www.energystar.gov/sites/default/files/asset/document/purchasing_checklist_revised.pdf

7. Water Leaks

- o <https://www.epa.gov/watersense/fix-leak-week>

8. Energy Assessments

- o https://www.energystar.gov/about/federal_tax_credits/home_energy_audit*
- o <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/environment-energy-coordination/latest-news/get-know-your-energy-use-and-discover-ways-save-energy-assessment>

9. Insulation Upgrades

- o https://www.energystar.gov/about/federal_tax_credits/insulation*

10. ENERGY STAR Upgrades

- o https://www.energystar.gov/about/federal_tax_credits*

To learn more about home energy savings and incentives, visit our **Home Energy webpage:**



[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/
environment-energy-
coordination/home-energy](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/environment-energy-coordination/home-energy)



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