

5 EASY STEPS TO MAKE YOUR HOME MORE SUSTAINABLE

You're not going to be a perfect environmentalist, and that's okay! Our goal is to make sustainability accessible, not overwhelming. As a homeowner, the best way to go green is to pick a few habits that resonate with you, and double down on them. Below, find our easy starter kit of tips and to-do's to reduce your carbon footprint—and help save you money in the process. Good for you, and good for the planet!



1. INSULATE, INSULATE, INSULATE

You pay to create heat - don't let it escape. Check out [Energy.gov](https://www.energy.gov) for information on adding insulation to your home. Ask around for recommendations on local home insulation companies. Or if you want to get really precise, consider getting a free home energy audit. [Home energy audits](#) will help you understand which parts of your home are working well already and also provide recommendations on what type of insulation your home needs. Just remember these auditors often represent businesses and may recommend add-on's that you may not need or want. Educate yourself in advance and shop around for providers.



2. CLEAN ELECTRICITY

Electricity production generates 25% of greenhouse gas emissions in the United States. Approximately 62% of our electricity comes from burning fossil fuels, mostly coal and natural gas. Take advantage of local programs that source clean electricity in a shared, co-op style alternative to directly installing solar panels, like [Delaware River Solar](#) for NYSEG locations or the [Clean Energy Marketplace](#) for Central Hudson locations.



3. CLEAN ENERGY

In the Catskills, most homeowners burn oil and propane for heat and hot water. Burning fossil fuels creates a ton of greenhouse gas emissions. Offset or switch entirely to clean energy by taking advantage of local solar incentives for your home. Check out [New Yorkers for Clean Power](#) for ideas to get you started.



4. RETROFITTING OLDER HOMES

It's so tempting to focus primarily on aesthetics when renovating old homes. But consider first investing in retrofitting your home's infrastructure in a way that is both sustainable and saves you money in the long run. Upgrade windows and doors, and when old appliances and utilities reach the end of their useful lives, replace them with [energy efficient and water efficient models](#). Also, switch to energy efficient lightbulbs and invest in smart home thermostats. NYSEG offers many incentives, including [discounts on Nest thermostats](#).



5. TAX CREDITS

During tax season, take advantage of current tax credits for energy efficient home improvements. Check out a list of energy efficiency incentives specifically for New York [here](#). You can filter by "Personal Tax Credit" and "Property Tax Incentive" to see how to save on your income tax and property tax. That's in addition to what you'll save in the long run on fuel costs.



BONUS: We love the annual [Clean Power Guides](#) presented by Upstate House and Sustainable Hudson Valley. Check them out!