

Important Green Home Improvements

Major Issues

- 1st STEP: Moisture issues Eliminate all moisture leaks at the roof and in the basement.
- 2nd STEP: Duct sealing If the house has ducts, they probably need to be sealed.
- 3rd STEP: Whole-house air sealing Almost always one of the most cost effective energy improvements.
- Fireplace issues: Install tight sealing dampers, close off completely, or convert to a closed combustion unit like a pellet or corn stove.
- Upgrade insulation to current recommendations: This can require special equipment and techniques, but is well worth it, especially for attics & basements.
- Window and door performance: First try servicing and repair, along with additional glazing (all windows double glazed), before considering replacement.
- Solar protection: Install solar film, awnings, cool roofs. Plant trees.
- Proper ventilation: Install exhaust and air make-up systems if needed. Check that furnace dampers work.
- Increase day-lighting: Install skylights, clerestories and light tubes.
- Alternatives to air conditioning: Use whole house fans, ceiling fans, operable skylights, cross-ventilation windows and transoms.
- Upgrade to Energy Star: Replace all HVAC and appliances **when needed**. Switch out any refrigerator older than 12 years to an Energy Star model.
- Heating & Air Conditioning: Ask for a combustion efficiency analysis when servicing HVAC systems and upgrade, if necessary.
- High efficiency equipment: Consider tankless water heaters, closed combustion condensing furnaces or boilers, SEER 15+.
- Switch to renewable energy sources: Solar and geothermal.

Always

- Try to preserve important architectural details
- Install and use a programmable thermostat
- Switch to compact fluorescent bulbs or LED bulbs
- Buy Energy Star or better
- Vent exhaust fans to the exterior from bathrooms, kitchen and laundry
- Size HVAC systems properly. Many are oversized = less efficient & effective

Never

- Start a renovation project without considering energy efficient/green aspects
- Install fiberglass insulation in moist areas – crawlspaces, basements
- Install insulation over active knob & tube wiring
- Use duct tape on ducts

Greening Your Office and Your Home

Reduce

- Lighting: Turn them off; use day lighting as much as possible; switch to CFLs
- Paper: Don't print. If you do print, use both sides. Buy duplex printers & copiers.
- Transportation: Teleconference & telecommute; carpool; plan trips to reduce driving; keep tires inflated properly; slow down; purchase vehicles with GREAT gas mileage.
- Purchases: Switch to real rags, mops & brooms, and plates, napkins & flatware instead of disposables. Always buy Energy Star products. Try to buy less of everything.
- Heating & Cooling: Set thermostats higher in summer & lower in winter; program to set back when unoccupied. Use fans & natural ventilation instead of air conditioning.
- Water: Reduce your own use; fix any leaks quickly; install low flow and low flush products.

Reuse

- Paper: Reuse file folders and manila envelopes. Use paper that has been printed on only one side for half sheet note pads.
- Purchases: Buy recycled everything -- paper, folders, storage bins, furniture, toilet paper & towels and more. Be creative.

Recycle

- Paper and bottles: Do it at home & set up a program at work
- Computers, electronics & toner cartridges: These can also be recycled and other items too. Again, be creative.
- Buy services not products: The services of a copier, computer, or carpets.
- Examine your own production: What do you produce at work or at home that can be recycled or reused instead of going to the dump?

People, Planet and Profits

- Choose local, biodegradable and organic products whenever possible
- Support staff with good wages, health care and a positive working environment
- Buy local: Reduce transportation costs to the environment and support local businesses
- Give back to your community

To find out more about Home Energy Inspections and the most cost effective energy improvement projects, visit the [TerraLogos Web site here](http://www.TerraLogosEG.com).

