



Energy conservation ottawa

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The largest share of Ottawa's greenhouse gas emissions (45 per cent) come from homes and other buildings. These emissions are mostly from burning natural gas for heat and hot water. Making energy efficiency improvements to your home is one of the most important actions required to meet Ottawa's target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to zero by 2050. To meet this target, all homes in Ottawa need to reduce the amount of energy used to heat their homes by 70 percent by 2040.

An EnerGuide home evaluation is a great way to learn more about your home's current energy efficiency and make informed decisions on how best to improve it. A registered energy advisor will conduct a top-to-bottom assessment of your home, inspecting your home's insulation, heating and cooling systems and overall home energy use to detect sources of energy loss. When the assessment is complete you will receive a customized action plan to improve the energy efficiency of your home.

An EnerGuide home evaluation is a requirement to receive financing through the City's Better Homes Ottawa - Loan Program and for other rebate and incentive programs.

Insulation, windows and doors make up part of your homes building envelope. The building envelope is the physical separator between the indoor environment and the weather outside. It controls the flow of heat, air, moisture, light, and noise from the inside of your home to the outdoors. Improving your home's building envelope is a cost-effective way to significantly reduce your energy use. Start by:

Switch gas and older electric appliances to more energy efficient ones. For example, replace your gas stove with an induction stove which provides a similar cooking experience to gas but is much more energy efficient.

Water heaters account for almost 20 per cent of the energy used in an average Canadian home. ENERGY STAR certified water heaters use less energy than standard models and can help save money on your utility bills as well as reducing your greenhouse gas emissions.

A heat pump is an electrical appliance that takes heat energy from one place and moves it to another - just like a refrigerator. In summer, it moves heat out of the building, and in winter it moves heat into the building, even if it's cold outside. A "cold-climate" heat pump is designed to work in Ottawa winters.

Another option is to get a dual fuel heat pump with gas back up. The heat pump works until it's below -12 degrees Celsius outside. When it gets colder it switches over to a gas furnace to make sure your home still stays warm. This lower cost option helps significantly reduce fossil fuel consumption and is a good option for homes that haven't undertaken insulation and window upgrades yet.

Solar photovoltaic (PV) systems convert energy from the sun into electricity. Solar photovoltaic panels have



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few operating costs and can be installed on any kind of home or building, providing a safe and reliable source of electricity that produces no on-site pollution and is emission free.

The Better Homes Ottawa website has everything you need to know to make your home more energy efficient and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It includes information on:

Thermal cameras measure surface temperature using infrared imaging. They allow you to identify hot and cold spots in your home where insulation is missing and where air is getting in or out.

Some issues such as leaks around windows, doors and outlets are easy to fix yourself with caulking, weather stripping and foam gaskets. For other things such as insulation you may want to contact a local contractor for help. The Keeping the Heat In Guide from Natural Resources Canada and the Better Homes Ottawa website offer guidance on how to complete these projects.

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