

# FIVE STEPS

## TOWARDS A MORE ENERGY EFFICIENT HOME

### 1 SEAL THE ENVELOPE

Keep your home warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer by sealing drafts and increasing insulation in walls, attics, and basements. These changes can be the most effective, and often the least expensive, way to reduce home energy use. Replacing windows? Lower U-factor means better insulation.



### 2 REDUCE CONSUMPTION



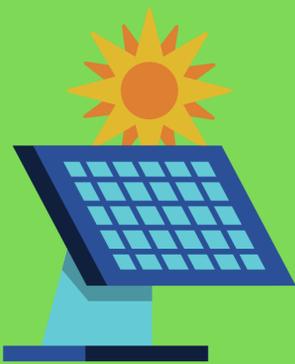
One degree difference in your thermostat settings is worth 1% of an average home's energy bill, according to the Department of Energy. With a programmable or "smart" thermostat, even larger savings are possible. Time to replace an energy-hungry appliance, like a dryer or fridge? Look for the Energy Star label. Even small changes, like LED bulbs and power strips, help reduce the total energy your home consumes.

### 3 ELECTRIFY FOR A LOW-CARBON HOME

Renovations or replacing major appliances are decisions that homeowners only make a few times--hopefully! Choose electric instead of oil or gas to reduce carbon use and improve indoor air quality (don't forget the Energy Star label). With Community Power, all residents can receive 100% renewable electricity at a better price than the basic rate.



### 4 GENERATE TO OFFSET YOUR CONSUMPTION



Offset the energy your home consumes by producing electricity with rooftop photovoltaic (PV) panels. MassCEC has information about incentives, including tax credits and loans, to purchase your system instead of leasing. If your roof is not well-suited for rooftop PV or you live in a larger multifamily home, community solar programs can provide consistent monthly savings.

### 5 ADD STORAGE FOR RESILIENCY

While we are fortunate to have a reliable electricity supply, storms and other unexpected events can still leave us in the dark. Consider adding battery storage for additional resiliency against outages. And with the right modifications to your existing system, some of the latest electric vehicles can power your home without additional batteries!



**More Information from Local Volunteers**

<https://www.swampscottma.gov/renewable-energy-committee>