

Climate Friendly Homes Tour

retrofit guide

Get an Energy Evaluation by a Registered Energy Advisor (EA).

EAs help you make good decisions – they are knowledgeable efficiency and sustainability professionals trained to help homeowners, renovators and builders to enhance a home's energy efficiency.

They are registered by Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) to deliver the EnerGuide Rating System (ERS) and will use diagnostic and modelling tools (e.g. blower-door air leakage test) to provide impartial,

third-party verification and ratings of a home's energy efficiency.

EAs create a EnerGuide Report to identify areas that require attention and explore additional opportunities with homeowners to create a roadmap towards a healthier, more sustainable and efficient home.

Find an experienced EA at <https://www.betterhomesbc.ca/ea/>

To access many of the rebates, an Energy Advisor must be involved.

Your building envelope (exterior walls, insulation, windows, doors, foundation, roof) and mechanical systems (heating, cool, ventilation) all interact to determine your home's energy performance. Upgrades to one element may impact the kinds of upgrades needed for other parts of your home. For example, improving your airtightness by upgrading your envelope may result in a smaller heat pump system needed to heat and cool your home.

Focus on your building envelope.

An EnerGuide Report will outline a range of upgrades to improve the integrity of your home's building envelope and overall energy performance. Recommendations usually start with air tightness and insulation.

Insulating and air sealing your home will improve comfort and ensure that your heat pump is sized correctly and works efficiently.

Search for contractors in your area here - <https://www.betterhomesbc.ca/find-a-contractor/> Talk to a number of contractors about their experience and their recommendations in conjunction with your EnerGuide Report.

Consider including your Energy Advisor in the discussion to ensure a holistic perspective.



Phase out fossil fuels

Space heating



Invest in a heat pump.

Heat pumps are a well-established, extremely efficient way to heat and cool your home and reduce greenhouse gas pollution. Heat pumps work by capturing and moving heat from the air rather than creating it by burning fuel. In winter, even when it's cold, heat pumps capture heat from the air outside and move it inside your home. At the same time, they are removing cool air from inside and pushing it outside. This whole system works in reverse during warmer months to provide the same cooling benefit as air conditioning.

Heat pumps are up to 300% more efficient than electric baseboard heaters and up to 50% more efficient than typical window air conditioning units for cooling.

Water heating



Switch to efficient electric or heat pump water heating.

Heat pump hot water heaters work using the same principles as heat pumps use for space heating by capturing and transferring heat from the air. Ensure to seek and take advice from experts with experience of installing this type of equipment to ensure the correct specification and sizing for your home.

Cooking



Replace gas cooktops with electric induction units.

Replace your gas stove with an electric induction unit. Cooking is easier and far more efficient with 90% of energy channeled to the pan resulting in a 70% reduction in energy consumption. It's also easy to clean and safer than gas.

Other Investments

Consider smart thermostats and other technologies to reduce your energy usage while enjoying a more comfortable and healthy living environment. Modern smart systems allow for greater control over your home energy usage by setting more specific parameters around the way that your home operates in terms of heating, cooling and energy usage.

When considering new appliances for your home such as dishwashers, dryers and washing machines, pay attention to their energy ratings and select the most efficient options.

