



Greening Your Home in Concord

Links and Resources for the Homeowner



This page, with live links, is available on-line at www.concordma.gov/pages/ConcordMA_CSE/Index

Where to start?

If energy conservation and efficiency are new to you, the amount of information to absorb may seem overwhelming. What is most important for my home? What are the money savings and costs? What should we do first? A great starting point is the **US Department of Energy Home Energy Saver**, an online audit tool and calculator that will help you pinpoint the areas of greatest savings. Find it at hes.lbl.gov/.

Concord Resources

Concord Municipal Light Plant offers an **Energy Loss Prevention Service** to all residential customers. Just call the hotline number, 888-772-4242 for on-the-spot, energy-saving advice. You'll speak to an energy advisor who can answer most all of your energy related questions. And if needed, the advisor can even schedule a no-charge energy audit for your home.

The Light Plant also offers **rebates for solar PV, efficient appliances, and lighting**. Plus, they have tips for conservation, efficiency calculators, and success stories at www.concordma.gov/pages/ConcordMA_LightPlant/Rebates%20and%20Programs

See the **activity page for kids!** www.e-smartonline.net/concordlight/

The **Planning Department** has compiled a number of resources on sustainability, including water saving ideas, "Stretch" Building Code, and carbon footprint data, plus links to several videos like the story of Willard School's solar installation, TED talks, and more: www.concordma.gov/pages/ConcordMA_Planning/sustainability%20page

ConcordCAN, the Climate Action Network, presents speakers, films, discussion groups, and more on sustainability topics of all kinds. A great group to get you educated on all manner of sustainability issues. www.concordcan.org/



And don't forget the **Free Public Library**, which has numerous books on energy efficiency and greening your home, as well as home improvement magazines and manuals.
www.concordlibrary.org/

General Information on Energy Conservation and Efficiency in Your Home



EPA's Energy Star program, www.energystar.gov, is well-known for its ratings of appliance and equipment energy efficiency. Energy Star also has a wealth of material for the homeowner who is considering renovation or new construction, such as a rating tool to determine the most valuable energy saving renovation, tips for dealing with contractors, and guides to heating and cooling in different climates. Go to www.energystar.gov and click on **SAVE ENERGY @HOME**.



The **US Dept. of Energy** has posted a large variety of resources on saving energy, including your use of electricity, heating and cooling, making your home's 'building envelope' more energy efficient, and more. Start exploring at energy.gov/energysaver/energy-saver.

Insulation

Sealing and insulating your home is almost always a great 'bang for the buck' in energy expenditure. Insulation, however, can be a surprisingly complex topic. How much is enough? Where should we insulate? What insulation material is best for our situation? These and other questions are answered by the Dept. of Energy **Insulation Fact Sheet** at http://www.ornl.gov/sci/roofs+walls/insulation/ins_08.html

Want to do it yourself? See **A Do-It-Yourself Guide to Sealing and Insulating with ENERGY STAR** at www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=diy.diy_index.

Doors & windows

Energy Star tests and qualifies windows and doors to meet DOE efficiency guidelines. If you are considering new doors, windows, or skylights, check out the page on **Buying and Installing Windows and Doors** at www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=windows_doors.pr_buying_installing

Heating & Cooling

Few topics offer as much potential for reducing energy use and saving money as your home's heating, ventilating, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems. A good guide to HVAC efficiency is the **Energy Star Guide to Energy-Efficient Heating and Cooling**, at www.energystar.gov/ia/partners/publications/pubdocs/HeatingCoolingGuide_FINAL_9-4-09.pdf

The Concord Sustainable Energy Committee has also published a white paper, **Concord Residential Heating Systems - Smart Choices for Better Efficiency and A Reduced Carbon Footprint**, which compares the costs and efficiencies of various heating options. Find it at www.concordma.gov/pages/ConcordMA_CSE/heating%20systems%20whitepaper%20-%20V60.pdf.

Renewable Energy - Solar Power

The Department of Energy **Consumer Guide to Solar Electricity for the Home** is a good starting point, at www.nrel.gov/learning/pdfs/43844.pdf.



New in Spring 2013! The **Concord Solar Challenge** offers substantial cost savings to Concord homeowners who install solar power under the program. See go.astrumsolar.com/Concord.

Solar Thermal systems heat water for heating or domestic hot water, rather than generate electricity. The DOE Consumer's Guide, **Heat Your Water with the Sun** is available at www.nrel.gov/docs/fy04osti/34279.pdf.

Lighting and Other Things You Plug In

Confused about buying light bulbs with all the new options and alternatives? You're not alone. **CMLP** sorts it out for you at

www.concordma.gov/pages/ConcordMA_LightPlant/UnderstandLightBulbs

Energy Star's Product Finder lists products in various categories that meet the requirements of certification, at www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=products.pr_find_es_products.

Indoor Air Quality and Eliminating Toxics

Be sure you don't neglect indoor air quality when improving your home's energy efficiency. Poor ventilation, Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC's), mold, and other problems from new materials and construction changes can contribute to asthma and other diseases. The key to avoiding problems is to employ proper work practices, such as correct insulation installation and correctly removing potentially hazardous dust and debris. See EPA's page on **Addressing Indoor Environmental Concerns During Remodeling** at <http://www.epa.gov/iaq/homes/hip-concerns.html>

Green Seal tests, certifies, and labels safer consumer products for the home: www.greenseal.org/FindGreenSealProductsAndServices.aspx. So does the **EPA Design for the Environment** program, at www.epa.gov/dfe/.



A guide to ***How to Reduce Toxics in Your Home*** is posted at www.pca.mn.gov/index.php/view-document.html?gid=11366



And the ***Massachusetts Toxics Use Reduction Institute*** has effective ***DIY cleaning recipes*** that avoid hazardous substances: [www.turi.org/Our Work/Green Cleaning Lab/Does It Clean/Do-it-Yourself Recipes](http://www.turi.org/Our_Work/Green_Cleaning_Lab/Does_It_Clean/Do-it-Yourself_Recipes)



Landscaping

Landscaping can help make your home more energy efficient? Yes! See energy.gov/public-services/homes/landscaping

Your yard can be a lush, green, healthy landscape with less effort, less cost, and without unhealthy chemicals. See the NOFA Organic Land Care site at www.organiclandcare.net/.



Free water-saving landscape templates, developed by the Garden Club of Concord, are available at [www.concordnet.org/Pages/ConcordMA Water/watertemplates](http://www.concordnet.org/Pages/ConcordMA_Water/watertemplates).

Water Conservation

Although New England has ample water resources, we still face occasional water shortages during peak-demand periods, and the strain on our water system can be considerable. Rebates for water-efficiency appliances are available, and there are lots of things you and your family can do to reduce water use without sacrificing water's benefits. Saving water also saves energy! See Concord's water conservation page at [www.concordnet.org/Pages/ConcordMA Water/efficient](http://www.concordnet.org/Pages/ConcordMA_Water/efficient).

Financial Rebates and Incentives



DSIRE is a national database of rebates, tax credits, and other financial incentive programs at the federal, state, and municipal levels – for both energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. This constantly changing landscape is kept updated at www.dsireusa.org/

Natural gas customers in Concord can take advantage of offers and rebates from ***Mass Save***: www.masssave.com/residential



Concord-specific rebate programs are available through the Light Plant. See [www.concordma.gov/pages/ConcordMA LightPlant/Rebates%20and%20Programs](http://www.concordma.gov/pages/ConcordMA_LightPlant/Rebates%20and%20Programs)