

Residential Actions Checklist

The following is a checklist of many Residential Actions you could take to help move toward our goal in Illinois to move towards 100% renewable energy by 2050. Every little bit counts! Keep this on your computer or print it out and put it on your fridge and add to it as you take actions. Upload your answers if you want help. Your actions will add up and the changes will show up on your energy bills! This list is not exhaustive, and we encourage you to share your own ideas on All4.Earth.

My Commitment

- I commit to taking action to reduce my total energy with every choice (heat, electricity, transportation)
- I commit to reducing my carbon footprint by 50% by 2035, 100% by 2050
- I commit to updating this form once per year, on the anniversary of:

Heating and Cooling

Saved Heat

Weatherization

- Weatherization talk w/ a home energy expert
- got a walk-through assessment or energy audit of home
- undertook comprehensive energy improvements of home

Weatherization Do-It-Yourself (DIY)

- turned down thermostat in winter or turned off or raised thermostat on AC in the summer
- caulked windows and other gaps along window frames
- changed the filter(s) in the furnace every 3-4 months
- installed outlet/switch-plate foam gaskets and outlet safety plugs
- weatherstripped doors
- made sure that cold air returns for forced-air system are free from blockages
- made sure window sash locks are working and locked (in winter)
- sealed up the fireplace chimney
- sealed window AC unit(s).
- sealed ductwork in the attic and uninsulated crawlspaces
- added storm windows and doors
- reduced use of space heaters
- caulked all windows and other gaps along window frames through weatherstripping

Weatherization DIY (Advanced)

- air sealed and insulated an attic
- insulated and weatherized the basement door(s)
- insulated the box sills and rim joists in a basement
- sealed up and insulated attic hatch
- installed a programmable thermostat(s)
- replaced single pane windows with ENERGY STAR Illinois climate-certified windows

Heat Equipment Upgrades & Improvements

- got a tune-up on the boiler or furnace
- installed a cold climate heat pump(s) to displace fuel heating needs
- installed a faucet aerator and/or water flow regulator
- installed an ENERGY STAR high efficiency boiler
- replaced a furnace/boiler with an energy efficient ENERGY STAR qualifying model
- replaced traditional range with induction range cookers (Food Sales)
- switched to a high efficiency biomass (e.g. pellet) furnace or boiler
- added an efficient wood stove insert to fireplace
- installed a programmable thermostat(s)

Hot Water Efficiency

- installed shower heads that use 1.5 gallons/minute or less
- set water heaters to proper temperatures
- installed a heat pump water heater
- insulated pipes from the hot water heater
- turned hot water down to 120 degrees F
- installed an indirect circulation solar hot water heater
- installed an ENERGY STAR on-demand hot water heater
- reduced time in hot shower and/or installed timers in shower

Generated Heat

Heat Pumps/HVAC

- installed cold climate heat pumps ("mini-splits") for heating/cooling
- installed water source heat pump
- installed a whole home cold climate heat pump system
- installed a ground source geothermal heat pump

Efficient Wood Heat

- installed an efficient wood pellet stove using locally sourced sustainable pellets
- installed an efficient wood stove using locally sourced sustainable wood
- added an efficient wood stove insert to fireplace using locally sourced sustainable wood
- installed an efficient standalone woodstove using locally sourced sustainable wood

Hot Water Heaters

- installed a high efficiency gas hot water heater
- installed an ENERGY STAR heat pump water heaters
- installed a heat pump water heater
- installed an indirect circulation solar hot water heater
- installed an ENERGY STAR on-demand hot water heater

Passive Solar

- installed shading for summer months to avoid overheating
- installed thermal mass where a constant temperature is desired
- installed unobstructed windows within 30 degrees of true south

Compost Heat

- generated heat from compost

Electricity Use

Saved Electricity

Lighting

- eliminated unnecessary exterior bulbs/lights
- eliminated unnecessary interior bulbs/lamps
- installed occupancy sensors/timers for lights
- replaced exterior bulbs with LEDs /efficient lights
- replaced indoor incandescent bulbs with LEDs/efficient lights

Electric Equipment Upgrade

- got rid of an old freezer
- installed advanced power strips for electronics
- installed an ENERGY STAR efficient air conditioner
- installed an ENERGY STAR efficient ceiling fan

- installed an ENERGY STAR efficient computer or monitor
- installed an ENERGY STAR efficient dehumidifier
- installed an ENERGY STAR efficient dishwasher
- installed an ENERGY STAR efficient pool pump
- installed an ENERGY STAR efficient refrigerator or freezer
- installed an ENERGY STAR efficient TV and/or sound systems
- installed an ENERGY STAR efficient washer/dryer
- installed an energy-efficient cold climate heat pump for AC/heat
- installed a programmable thermostat(s)

No/Low-Cost Actions

- closed shades/curtains during heat of day in summer
- dries clothes on clotheslines
- eliminated unnecessary appliances and equipment
- joined my local energy committee
- regularly turns off electronics when not in use
- regularly turns off lights when not in use
- regularly turns off power strips when not in use
- set dehumidifier at 60%
- signed up for Liheap rate program to reduce electricity costs
- turned down thermostat in winter or turned off or raised thermostat on AC in the summer
- unplugged or removed second refrigerator or freezer
- used fans for cooling rather than A/C
- uses power strips to turn off multiple electronic equipment simultaneously
- increased efficiency of freezer by relocating it away from a heated location
- reduced use of space heaters

Generated Electricity

Solar Energy

- sourced 90-100% of electricity use through solar energy
- joined a Community Solar Array (CSA)/Group-Net Metered system as a member
- joined a Community-Owned Solar Array (CSA) as an owner of panels
- installed a ground-mounted solar array
- installed a roof-mounted solar array
- installed a solar carport or canopy
- installed a solar tracker

- leased land for a solar array
- installed a Powerwall or another solar storage system

Combined Heat and Power (CHP) Energy

- installed/joined a Combined Heat and Power system

Wind Energy

- installed a wind turbine

Hydropower Energy

- installed a project to generate hydropower

Transportation

Reduced Fuel Use

Efficient Driving Behavior

- drove slower to conserve fuel
- encouraged students to take the bus, bike or walk to school
- ensured all tires are properly inflated to increase mpg
- reduced car trips by combining errands
- started a trip diary to increase awareness of my vehicle usage
- stopped idling vehicle(s)

Efficient Vehicles: Choose One

- bought an electric bicycle to replace local car trips
- leased/bought a hybrid car
- leased/bought a plug-in hybrid
- leased/bought an electric vehicle (EV)
- traded in vehicle for a higher MPG model
- uses biofuel in vehicle(s)
- Became a one car household

Public Transit

- regularly uses public transportation

Transportation Infrastructure

- installed an electric vehicle charging station at home

Carpool or Carshare

- encouraged kids to carpool to school and after-school activities
- joined a carshare program
- regularly carpools (non work)
- regularly carpools to work

Bike/Walk

- regularly bikes or walks for local trips
- uses an electric assist bicycle for local transportation needs

Air Travel

- reduced total number of work or personal airplane trips per year