

# Campus Climate Action Corps

## Massachusetts Energy Efficiency Community Resource Guide



[CCAC@compact.org](mailto:CCAC@compact.org)



[compact.org/CCAC](http://compact.org/CCAC)

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# Table of Contents

<b>About Us.....</b>	<b>4</b>
CCAC In Massachusetts.....	4
<b>Why is Energy Efficiency Important?.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Massachusetts Energy Profile.....</b>	<b>6</b>
Energy Burden in Massachusetts.....	6
<b>The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).....</b>	<b>7</b>
What is LIHEAP?.....	7
LIHEAP Eligibility in Massachusetts.....	7
LIHEAP Application.....	8
Other Benefits of LIHEAP.....	8
<b>Weatherization &amp; The Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP).....</b>	<b>9</b>
What is Weatherization?.....	9
Why Should Massachusetts Residents Weatherize?.....	9
What Does WAP Entail?.....	9
Weatherization Services that are Typically Funded Include:.....	9
Lasting Benefits of WAP.....	9
<b>The Heating System Repair and Replacement Program (HEARTWAP).....</b>	<b>10</b>
What is HEARTWAP?.....	10
<b>Appliance Management Program (AMP).....</b>	<b>10</b>
What is AMP?.....	10
Eligibility Requirements for AMP.....	11
How to Apply.....	11
<b>MASS SAVE.....</b>	<b>11</b>
What is MASS Save?.....	11
Home Energy Assessments.....	11
HEAT Loan.....	11
Income-Eligible Assistance.....	12
<b>Additional Massachusetts Energy Rebate Programs.....</b>	<b>13</b>
Clean Energy Programs for Low- and Moderate-Income Residents in Massachusetts.....	13
Mass Save Community First Partnership.....	13
MassCEC EmPower Massachusetts Program.....	13
Commonwealth Energy Tool for Savines (EnergyCENTS).....	13
ENERGY STAR.....	13

**Climate Action in the United States..... 14**

**Climate Action in Massachusetts..... 14**

    Massachusetts’ Climate Action..... 14

    Carbon Free Boston..... 15

    Carbon Free Boston Climate Action Plan Update..... 15

    Climate Ready Boston..... 15

    Electricity and Natural Gas Efficiency Plan..... 16

**National Energy Efficiency Resources.....17**

**Massachusetts State Resources..... 18**

**Suffolk County Energy Efficiency Resources..... 22**

**Tips for Saving Energy and Money in Your Home Year Round.....23**

    Warm Weather Energy Saving Tips..... 23

    Cold Weather Energy Saving Tips..... 23

    Tips to Follow Rain or Shine All Year Round!..... 24

**Glossary..... 25**

# About Us

The Campus Climate Action Corps (CCAC) is a [Campus Compact](#) and [AmeriCorps](#) initiative dedicated to improving energy efficiency and cost savings for economically disadvantaged individuals and to lessening our environmental impact.

CCAC AmeriCorps members serve as a vital link to spread our message across the entire state! Campus Compact initiatives bring positive growth to both the AmeriCorps members and the communities they serve. The CCAC program is a staple in the community because it promotes energy conservation for environmental and financial reasons while bringing communities closer together.

The goal of CCAC is to reach households that have higher energy burdens or spend a disproportionate amount of their income on energy bills. Especially focused on economically disadvantaged residents, CCAC provides access to energy efficiency resources that aim to lower energy bills and promote environmental sustainability.

Environmental sustainability lies at the heart of every CCAC initiative. More people saving energy means fewer carbon emissions released into the environment, a vital step in the right direction in our battle against the climate crisis. CCAC initiatives build community partnerships to promote energy efficiency awareness. Not only do these partnerships encourage various groups to unite around environmental stewardship, but they also open pathways for future collaboration and opportunity in the community. Collectively, CCAC's initiatives spur environmental and financial progress while uniting communities in the name of energy efficiency.

Additionally, CCAC initiatives have a profound impact on the AmeriCorps members who participate in them. AmeriCorps members gain experience, for example, in planning and operating an environmentally focused public awareness campaign while developing valuable skills in the process. Over their term of service, members develop skills such as time management, leadership, communication, creativity, and volunteer management. The skills and experiences that CCAC members gain over the course of service are certainly invaluable to any individual seeking to enhance their professional self, regardless of their desired career.

CCAC's initiative provides an irreplaceable framework for sustainable living that works to preserve the environment, benefits the community, and provides priceless experiences and skill development for people passionate about making a difference.

## CCAC In Massachusetts

CCAC has a growing presence in Massachusetts and is currently partnered with two host sites: Lasell University and Middlesex Community College. We also have 3 CCAC members operating out of Massachusetts: our communications coordinator and two energy efficiency coordinators. To learn more about our other projects, please visit our website [here](#).



# Why is Energy Efficiency Important?

**Energy efficiency** means using *less* energy to perform a task (i.e. turning off a light.) Having an energy-efficient home improves your household's health, safety, and comfort, as well as helps protect the environment. Finding ways to maximize energy efficiency is particularly important for low-income households because economically disadvantaged people experience higher energy burdens. Low-income houses have an average of [5% more of an "energy cost burden](#) than average households.

## Improves Health, Safety, and Comfort

Maximizing energy efficiency reduces the need to burn fossil fuels to generate electricity. Pollutants from fossil fuel combustion can lead to cancer, respiratory illnesses, heart disease, and stroke, all of which are leading causes of death in the United States. High energy burdens may also force you to cut back on heating, cooling, and lighting expenses, which can have many physical and mental health consequences, such as uncomfortable temperatures, inadequate lighting, unsafe housing conditions, and constant financial and social stress.

## Helps the Environment

When you burn fossil fuels to power your home, you release carbon dioxide and other **greenhouse gasses** that trap heat in Earth's atmosphere, warming the planet's surface. This leads to **climate change** which causes sea-level rise, inhabitable climates, extreme weather, and many other problems that threaten life on Earth. Economically disadvantaged populations are especially vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Increasing energy efficiency can slow climate change by decreasing demand for energy imports and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy estimates that energy efficiency policies could reduce annual carbon dioxide emissions by 1 billion tons by 2030.

## Energy Efficiency in Your Home

Whether you are a homeowner or a renter, you will find information in this manual about how you can lessen your household energy expenses through:

- The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- The Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)
- Rebates for energy and cost-efficient upgrades
- Tips for maximizing energy efficiency
- Advocating for Climate Action in Massachusetts

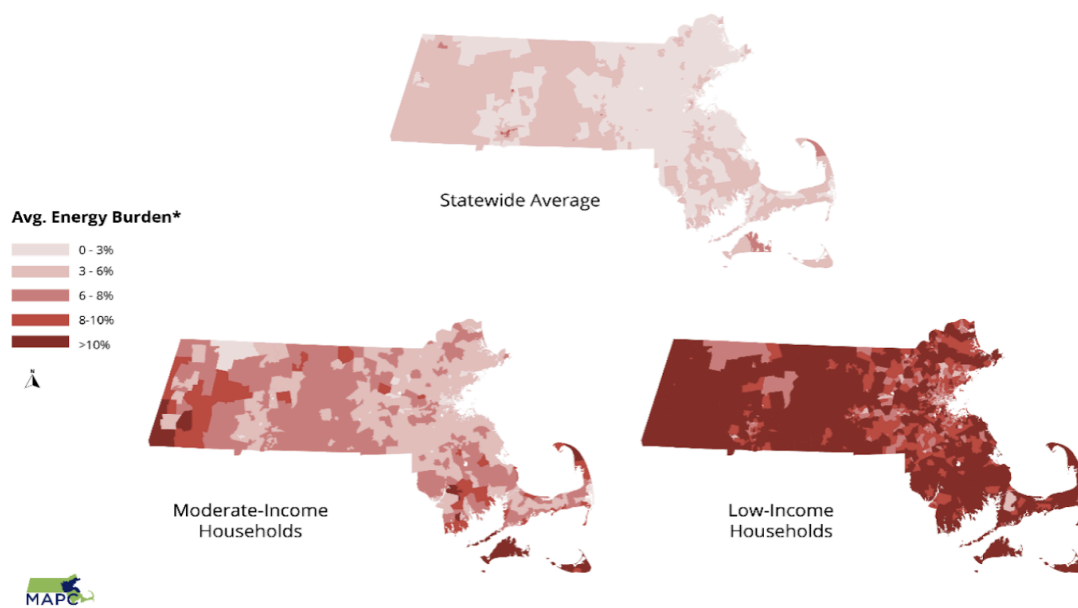
## Saves Money

Economically disadvantaged households can save money on heating, water, electricity, and household appliances through energy efficiency benefit programs such as **LIHEAP** (Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, [pg. 7](#)), **WAP** (Weatherization Assistance Programs, [pg. 9](#)), and **rebate** and **incentive** programs ([pg. 10](#)). Simple tips and tricks can help you save even more energy and money in your home ([pg. 22](#))

# Massachusetts Energy Profile

## Energy Burden in Massachusetts

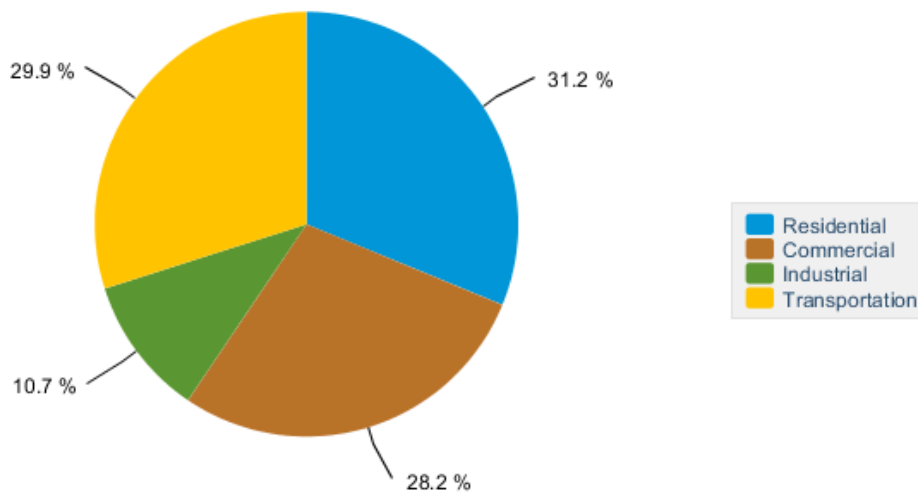
**Energy burden** is defined as the percentage of a household's income spent on home energy bills. In Massachusetts, the average energy burden is about three percent. However, the average energy burden for low-income populations is about 10 percent, and in certain neighborhoods, the energy burden is as high as 31 percent. This means that some low-income families are spending close to a third of their income on energy bills alone. Click [here](#) to learn more about energy burdens.



Data Source: US Department of Energy Low-Income Energy Affordability Data.

Source: [Metropolitan Area Planning Council](#)

## Massachusetts Energy Consumption by End-Use Sector, 2021



Source: Energy Information Administration, State Energy Data System

Source: [Energy Information Administration](#)

# The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

## What is LIHEAP?

The Massachusetts Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (called **LIHEAP** or **HEAP**) is a state and federally-funded program that provides money to low-income homeowners and renters to help pay for winter heating bills from November 1st to April 30th. LIHEAP serves millions of people each year.

## LIHEAP Eligibility in Massachusetts

The amount of help you receive from LIHEAP is dependent on your income, household size, and energy costs. Typically, people who participate in or have family members who participate in benefit programs such as **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)**, **Supplemental Security Income (SSI)**, and **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)** are automatically eligible for LIHEAP. Renters can qualify for LIHEAP benefits even if heating is included in their rent. In order to qualify, you must also have an annual household income (before taxes) that is below 60 percent of the State Median Income. To determine if you qualify for LIHEAP, contact your local **Community Action Agency (CAA)**, which can be found [here](#).

Number of Household Members	Annual Household Income 2022 – 2023 Heating Season	
	<a href="#">Income Eligible Program</a>	<a href="#">Enhanced Residential Program</a>
1	< \$42,411	\$42,412 – \$56,548
2	< \$55,461	\$55,462 – \$73,948
3	< \$68,511	\$68,512 – \$91,348
4	< \$81,561	\$81,562 – \$108,748
5	< \$94,610	\$94,611 – \$126,147
6	< \$107,660	\$107,661 – \$143,547
7	< \$110,107	\$110,108 – \$146,809
8	< \$112,554	\$112,555 – \$150,072
9	< \$115,001	\$115,002 – \$153,335
10	< \$117,448	\$117,449 – \$156,597
11	< \$119,895	\$119,896 – \$159,860
12	< \$122,343	\$122,344 – \$163,124
13	< \$124,788	\$124,789 – \$166,384
14	< \$127,235	\$127,236 – \$169,647

## LIHEAP Application

Home heating costs during the heating season (November 1, 2023 – April 30, 2024) may be eligible for LIHEAP. The online application opens on October 1, 2023, and can be accessed [here](#). Or, you may call the HEATLINE at 1-800-632-8175 to schedule an appointment to complete the application. If you are a first-time applicant, you'll need to apply in person at the fuel assistance agency in your area. Locate your fuel assistance agency on the [Department of Housing and Community Development Resource Locator](#) page.

## Other Benefits of LIHEAP

In Massachusetts, LIHEAP eligibility is a gateway to other federally funded programs, such as:

- **The Heating System Repair and Replacement Program (HEARTWAP)**, which provides emergency heating system repair and replacement services to low-income households.
- **The Low-Income Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP)**, which serves eligible households whose water/sewer service has been either terminated for non-payment or when the bill is overdue.
- **Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)**, which provides grants to eligible households for **weatherization improvements** such as insulation, weather-stripping, caulking, and some energy-related repairs.

To find out more about LIHEAP, click [here](#).



# Weatherization & The Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)

## What is Weatherization?

Kind of like bundling up your home! **Weatherization** is the process of protecting a building from air leaks and the elements to increase energy efficiency and reduce heating and cooling costs. According to the **US Department of Energy**, proper weatherization helps households save up to [15% on heating and cooling costs and 11% on total energy costs annually annually.](#)

## Why Should Massachusetts Residents Weatherize?

Massachusetts has the [second-oldest housing stock](#) in the country, which means that many homes lack modern air leak-preventing technology. In addition, Massachusetts is vulnerable to extreme weather conditions in summer and winter. As a result, many Massachusetts residents experience increased heating and cooling costs and uncomfortable temperatures in their homes. This makes weatherization measures particularly important for Massachusetts residents who can save money and energy while improving the comfort of their homes.

## What Does WAP Entail?

The Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) provides low-income households with full-scale home energy efficiency services. An average of \$4,725 in allowable energy efficiency measures is available to eligible households. The most common measures include air sealing, attic Insulation, sidewall Insulation, floor Insulation, pipe and/or duct insulation, and limited energy-related repairs.

## Weatherization Services that are Typically Funded Include:

- Insulation and venting
- Weather stripping
- Door sweeps
- Air sealing and caulking
- Sealing ducts
- Chimney bypasses
- Wrapping pipes
- Safety-related repairs
- Replacing incandescent bulbs with LED

## Lasting Benefits of WAP

- Nationally, economically disadvantaged families spend on average \$1,800 on energy bills each year. WAP's energy upgrades save families an average of \$437 annually on heating and cooling costs, with additional energy and cost savings from lighting and appliance upgrades.
- Low-income homes typically save an average of 35% on energy after weatherization services.

- Weatherization continues to save money and energy each year.
- Weatherization helps the environment by reducing carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions by 2.65 metric tons/year per home.
- Weatherization decreases pollution from burning fossil fuels and coal, improving local air quality and physical health.

To learn more about the Weatherization Assistance Program, click [here](#).

## The Heating System Repair and Replacement Program (HEARTWAP)

### What is HEARTWAP?

HEARTWAP serves LIHEAP-eligible households with heating system repair, replacement, and maintenance services all year round. The Heating Emergency Assistance Retrofit Task Weatherization Assistance Program (HEARTWAP) provides emergency heating system repair and replacement services to low-income households. The program is administered by a network of local agencies, in most areas, the same agency that administers the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) program, also known as Home Energy Assistance. See the "How to Apply" link to contact the local agency. HEARTWAP contracts with heating system service companies to complete the work for eligible households.

To learn more about the Heating System Repair and Replacement Program, click [here](#).

The program is designed primarily to serve homeowners. The program is primarily an emergency-based heating system repair program that helps eligible homeowners pay to repair or replace defective or unsafe heating systems. Funds are also available for asbestos abatement only as needed to enable heating system repairs or replacements to be completed safely. The agency contracts with licensed and insured heating repair technicians to fix the problem. Interested households should contact their local Home Energy Assistance agency for application information.

## Appliance Management Program (AMP)

### What is AMP?

The Appliance Management Program (AMP), in partnership with National Grid and Eversource, through energy audits, can replace certain appliances that are inoperable or inefficient, like refrigerators, freezers, window air conditioners, washing machines, and dehumidifiers. An energy auditor will come to your home and review your energy usage, show you ways to save on your electric bill, provide you with energy-saving measures, and evaluate if any of your appliances qualify for replacement.

## Eligibility Requirements for AMP

- Homeowners and renters may be eligible.
- Must be on the utility discount rate with either National Grid or Eversource Electric.
- The electric bill must be in the resident's name.
- Also eligible if already receiving [fuel assistance benefits](#).

## How to Apply

Contact your local Massachusetts agency [here](#) to get started. Call 508-675-2157 Ext 274 for National Grid Customers or Ext 275 for Eversource Electric customers, or email them at [ee@cfcinc.org](mailto:ee@cfcinc.org).

# MASS SAVE

## What is MASS Save?

Mass Save offers a range of services, rebates, incentives, and training to Massachusetts residents to make energy-efficient upgrades to their homes. Mass Save is a collaborative of Massachusetts' electric and natural gas utilities and energy efficiency service providers including Berkshire Gas, Cape Light Compact, Eversource, Liberty, National Grid, and Unitil.

## Home Energy Assessments

Schedule a no-cost virtual or in-person home energy assessment with an Energy Specialist by calling 866-527-7283 or take an online home energy assessment [here](#).

If you prefer to work with a Mass Save Home Performance Contractor, click [here](#) to find one near you. After your assessment, you may receive energy-saving products at no cost and incentives on energy-saving measures, such as insulation and air sealing. Possible incentives on measures include:

- A special offer of 100% off recommended insulation and air sealing improvements exclusively for eligible renters and landlords.
- Generous rebates of up to \$10,000 on qualifying energy-efficient heating, cooling, and water heating equipment and clothes washers.
- The opportunity to apply for 0% financing on eligible upgrades through the [HEAT Loan Program](#).
- Up to \$5,000 to help address barriers associated with insulation and air sealing upgrades recommended during a [Home Energy Assessment](#) of a rental unit. Offer valid for renter-occupied units in buildings with 2-4 units only. Single-family rentals and owner-occupied units do not qualify.

## HEAT Loan

The Mass Save Heat Loan offers zero-interest financing for home energy upgrades. That includes up to \$50,000 for the installation of air-source and ground-source heat pumps and up to \$25,000 for the installation of insulation, combustion heating systems, and more.

\*Interest-free financing of up to \$50,000 is only available to residential customers who are

installing eligible heat pumps. For all other energy efficient upgrades, interest-free financing opportunities are available up to \$25,000. To learn more and get started, call 866-527-SAVE (7283). You'll receive guidance on programs and incentives available to improve the efficiency of your home and where financing can help. A site visit may be required. Once your energy efficiency improvement is identified as one eligible for the HEAT Loan, applying is easy.

### **Income-Eligible Assistance**

Mass Save offers no-cost or discounted energy efficiency services to eligible Massachusetts residents, helping them lower their monthly energy bills and make their homes more comfortable. Eligibility for some rebates/incentives is based on findings from the Home Energy Assessment.

As part of the Income Eligible Program, you may qualify for no-cost upgrades and new homes, including:

- Replacement of your heating system
- Installation of additional attic, wall, and basement insulation
- Air sealing of the drafty areas of your home
- Replacement appliances (refrigerators, freezers, dehumidifiers, air conditioners, clothes washers, window AC units, ) if your current ones are inefficient.
- A programmable, Wi-Fi or smart thermostat
- LED energy-saving light bulbs
- Water-saving faucet aerators and showerheads
- Advanced power strips
- Replacement of eligible inefficient windows

Click here to find out if you qualify for the Mass Save [Income Eligible Program](#).

# Additional Massachusetts Energy Rebate Programs

## Clean Energy Programs for Low- and Moderate-Income Residents in Massachusetts

This matrix of clean energy programs for low and moderate-income residents of Massachusetts was developed by MAPC in 2020 to help municipalities and community organizations connect residents to clean energy opportunities that reduce utility costs and improve health and wellbeing. Visit [here](#) to learn more.

## Mass Save Community First Partnership

The Mass Save Community First Partnership provides funding and technical assistance to support community-based outreach initiatives to expand access to energy efficiency programs and help Massachusetts families and small businesses located in Environmental Justice communities save money and energy through Mass Save's programs. Learn more and apply at <https://www.masssave.com/learn/partners/community-partnership>.

## MassCEC EmPower Massachusetts Program

EmPower Massachusetts is an initiative to support the exploration, development, and implementation of program models or projects that provide access to the benefits of clean energy for previously underserved populations in Massachusetts. Learn more and apply at [www.masscec.com/empower-massachusetts](http://www.masscec.com/empower-massachusetts).

## Commonwealth Energy Tool for Savines (EnergyCENTS)

EnergyCENTS provides a single entry point to all of the energy-saving opportunities available to Massachusetts residents, businesses, and institutions. You can find rebates, loans, and financing for electric vehicles, appliances, home energy assessments, solar electricity, and more—and can be redirected to the sponsor's website.

## ENERGY STAR

Energy Star is an energy efficiency program administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Energy Star and its thousands of partners help American households save energy and money while protecting the environment. The program offers guidance on high-impact energy efficiency improvements, and rebates on Energy Star-certified products. Products with the Energy Star label meet the strict energy-efficiency specifications set by the EPA.

To learn more about Energy Star Rebates, click [here](#).

# Climate Action in the United States

In the 21st century, the world faces an unprecedented crisis: climate change. Due to the burning of fossil fuels and other unsustainable practices, harmful greenhouse gases are released into the air that warm the planet and send a range of cascading effects down our natural ecosystems. Coastal homes will be flooded, extreme weather events will become stronger and more common, and a wide variety of other effects will cause both environmental and socioeconomic effects throughout the United States and the world. The Northeastern United States will not be shielded from these effects, and this brings about the urgent need for climate action.

Climate action is about the process of taking meaningful steps that reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and enacting meaningful change that will prevent the climate crisis from accelerating. Nationally, the [Inflation Reduction Act](#) is the flagship bill of the Biden administration that aims to curb greenhouse gas emissions and fight against climate change. Provisions of the bill include investing approximately 300 million into climate provisions, including renewable energy technology, investing in electric vehicle infrastructure, and over 1 billion dollars towards climate resilience in low-income areas. Also, as part of his climate agenda, Biden launched the [American Climate Corps](#) to train young people in climate-facing jobs, including renewable energy jobs and jobs that improve the country's climate resilience efforts. The initiative hopes to put 20,000 young people to work after a paid training program. International efforts are also underway to decarbonize, as demonstrated by the annual COP (Conference of Parties) conventions which aim to foster a sense of collaboration around the issue on a global scale. In 2015, a monumental conference was held in Paris, where nearly every country in the world committed to the Paris Climate Agreement, where greenhouse gas emission reduction targets were set, laying the groundwork for significant climate action. The [COP 28](#) convention was recently held in Dubai, UAE, in December 2023, with many of the world's leading countries and delegates once again committing to reducing fossil fuel use.

# Climate Action in Massachusetts

## Massachusetts' Climate Action

Massachusetts stands at the forefront of this change at the state level by enacting climate friendly legislation along with coordinating across government bodies to install climate-focused programs. Governor Maura Healey has pledged that Massachusetts will lead the way in climate action by implementing a range of climate-friendly proposals.

One important piece of legislation passed by Massachusetts is the [Climate Act of 2021](#). This proposal sets important metrics that Massachusetts must meet in order to comply with Paris Climate Accord targets that will help the global community decarbonize.

This act will require the state to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 50% and set Massachusetts as a leader in climate action.

Read on to find out more about climate action programs in Massachusetts.

## Carbon Free Boston

In his 2017 State of the City address, former Mayor Martin J. Walsh announced Boston's goal of [carbon neutrality by 2050](#)—an ambitious yet necessary commitment to meet the urgency of the climate challenge. Becoming carbon neutral means that in 2050 Boston will release no net carbon emissions into the atmosphere. In Imagine Boston 2030, our city's long-term strategic plan, we also set an interim carbon reduction goal of 50 percent by 2030. Our carbon neutrality goal means that Boston is fulfilling its commitment to the Paris Climate

Agreement and leading efforts to keep global warming under 1.5 degrees Celsius. By 2017, the City of Boston reduced emissions from municipal buildings and fleets by more than 40 percent below 2005 levels. Based on the progress the City expects to make in energy efficiency and renewable energy, this Plan increases Boston's reduction goal for municipal operations from 50 percent to 60 percent by 2030."

## Carbon Free Boston Climate Action Plan Update

In 2019, the city of Boston updated its plan for Carbon Free Boston. The statement below was pulled from their announcement of the update.

*"Recent [climate reports](#) show we're heading towards more extreme climate change than previously thought. This includes rising sea levels and severe storms and temperatures.*

*In the face of this challenge, Boston is taking action to stop our contribution to climate change. Between 2005 and 2016, we reduced the amount of carbon pollution we emit each year by 18 percent. Learn more about our emissions.*

*We have a vision for reducing our emissions to fight climate change. We have pledged to make Boston a carbon-neutral city by 2050. Carbon neutrality means that in 30 years, our community can only release as much carbon pollution as our environment can safely absorb.*

*[The 2019 update](#) lays out the climate strategies we will accelerate over the next five years. We want to increase carbon emissions reduction in Boston's buildings and transportation.*

*Buildings: We're transitioning to zero-net carbon new construction. We plan to develop carbon targets to improve existing buildings over time. Transportation: We're putting in place Go Boston 2030 and supporting the adoption of zero-emission vehicles.*

*We will also take steps to make our energy supply cleaner and more resilient. We plan to reduce the environmental impact of consumption by Bostonians. The City is carrying out the strategies laid out in the 2019 Climate Action Plan Update. We will provide regular updates on our progress in carrying out our climate plans.*

*Learn more about the current status of strategies and progress towards our goals: [Fiscal Year 2020 Climate Action Report](#)*

Email the Director of Carbon Neutrality, Hannah Payne, to learn more about Carbon Free Boston. [hannahpayne@boston.gov](mailto:hannahpayne@boston.gov)

## Climate Ready Boston

The City of Boston released the Climate Ready Boston report in 2016. The report included a citywide climate change vulnerability assessment, updated climate projections, and an outline of strategies to address extreme heat, stormwater flooding, and coastal flooding from sea-level rise and storms

Since 2016, The City has released a [Climate Ready Boston 2019 update](#) and a [2021 Climate Action Report](#) with current information on the City's climate change initiatives.

## Electricity and Natural Gas Efficiency Plan

The Sponsors of Mass Save® have submitted to the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities (DPU) [a three-year electric and natural](#)

[gas energy efficiency plan](#) for 2022 through 2024 that will provide an estimated \$13 billion in benefits to the Commonwealth.

With this energy efficiency plan, Massachusetts continues to lead the nation through its focus on equity that follows a long-established and successful pathway providing customers with best-in-class energy saving and bill-reduction tools. For the first time ever, this plan assigns a social cost of carbon value (which is the estimated value of damage one ton of carbon released into the atmosphere) to greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) to measure climate impacts—and the damages avoided through avoided CO2 emissions.

The Sponsors' plan projects a GHG emission reduction of 845,000 tons, which puts Massachusetts on a path to achieving the mandated 2030 and 2050 emission reduction targets, including, for the first time, support through gas energy efficiency programs for customers who want to transition to high-efficiency forms of electric heating.

The Energy Efficiency Plan demonstrates the Sponsors' commitment to make the robust investments needed to achieve the Massachusetts Energy Efficiency Advisory Council's residential and income-eligible priorities, including more than \$800 million for electrification incentives and more than \$600 million for targeted equity initiatives.

To position the Sponsors' programs—and the Commonwealth in general—for longer-term success, the Plan includes nearly \$50 million in workforce development investments designed to build the diverse and inclusive human capital necessary to drive the clean-energy transition.

The Plan calls for the following investments between 2022–2024:



- A total budget of \$3.94 billion, including \$800 million in electrification incentives.
- Over \$600 million in targeted equity initiatives, including \$136 million to serve moderate-income (61%–80% of the state median income) customers, including a moderate-income offer of 100% incentive for weatherization and enhanced incentives for heating systems for customers who income-qualify.
- Nearly \$640 million in incentives for residential and income-eligible customers to weatherize their homes.

## National Energy Efficiency Resources

**American Council for an Energy-Efficiency Economy (ACEEE)** – develops transformative policies to reduce energy waste and combat climate change.

**Address:** 529 14th Street NW, Ste. 600

Washington, DC 20045

**Phone:** (202)-507-4000

**Website:** [aceee.org](http://aceee.org)

**Dashboard of State Incentives for Renewable Energy and Efficiency (DSIRE)** – a website dedicated to finding programs that homeowners can benefit from in the realm of energy efficiency.

**Website:** <https://www.dsireusa.org/>

**Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** – protects human health and the environment.

**Website:** [epa.gov](http://epa.gov)

**Contact EPA:** [epa.gov/home/forms/contact-epa](http://epa.gov/home/forms/contact-epa)

**National Energy Education Development (NEED)** – trains and assists teachers in harnessing the energy of the classroom – the energy of students. Teaches students and teachers each year about energy.

**Address:** 8404 Kao Circle, Manassas, VA 20110

**Phone:** 1-800-875-5029 or 1-703-257-1117

**Email:** [info@need.org](mailto:info@need.org)

**Website:** [need.org/educators](http://need.org/educators)

**US Department of Energy (DOE)** – The mission of the Energy Department is to ensure America’s security and prosperity by addressing its energy, environmental and nuclear challenges through transformative science and technology solutions

- [Energy Saver Guide](#)
- [DIY Projects](#)
- [Find incentives and financing](#)
- [Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy](#)

**National Housing Trust**– Assists with every stage of a home energy project including planning, financing, installation, and management. The National Housing Trust Fund is a federally funded program that assists in the production and preservation of affordable housing with services for extremely low- and very low-income households, including homeless families, who, without the availability of integrated supports, might experience less stable tenancies.

**Address:** 1101 30th Street, NW Suite 100 A Washington, DC 20007

**Phone:** 202-333-8931

**Email:** [nht@nhtinc.org](mailto:nht@nhtinc.org)

**Website:** [nationalhousingtrust.org](http://nationalhousingtrust.org)

**Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)** –

provides no-cost energy audits and weatherization services for low-income homes. Find your local WAP agency [here](#).

**About:** [energy.gov/eere/wap/about](http://energy.gov/eere/wap/about)

**How to Apply:** [energy.gov/eere/wap/how-apply](http://energy.gov/eere/wap/how-apply)

## Massachusetts State Resources

**Massachusetts Energy Efficiency Advisory**

**Council (EEAC)** – Guides the development, implementation, and evaluation of state and nation-leading energy efficiency plans by the Commonwealth’s 2008 is made of the commonwealth’s investor-owned gas and electric utilities and energy providers. The EEAC was created by the Green Communities Act of 2008 and it is chaired by the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources Commissioner.

**Website:** <https://ma-eeac.org/>

**Phone:** 866-376-2463

**Email:** [MA-EEAC@mass.gov](mailto:MA-EEAC@mass.gov)

### **Massachusetts Environmental Education**

**Society (MEEA)** – promotes, preserves, and improves environmental education in Massachusetts. The 501(c)3 organization provides resources, professional development opportunities, and grant opportunities for classroom teachers and environmental educators across the state.

[Join the Annual Conference for environmental educators!](#) You can receive monthly meetings by contacting the MEES Board of Directors: [massmees.org/about-us/contact/](http://massmees.org/about-us/contact/)

**Address:** 8 Glover Square Marblehead, MA 01945

**Email:** info@massmees.org

**Website:** [meeassociation.org](http://meeassociation.org)

**Mass Audubon** – A 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that protects the nature of Massachusetts and creates opportunities for people and wildlife and increases access to nature. Founded in 1896 by two women who fought for the protection of birds, Mass Audubon is now the largest nature-based conservation organization in New England and addresses the loss of biodiversity and climate change.

**Mailing Address:** 208 South Great Rode, Lincoln, MA 01773

**Phone:** 781-259-9500

**Email:** mass\_audubon@massaudubon.org

**Website:** [massaudubon.org/](http://massaudubon.org/)

**Massachusetts Energy Efficiency Partnership MAEEP)** – supports deployment of energy efficient technology and tools to the industrial, commercial, and institutional sectors. The MAEEP Program delivers its value through a combination of stakeholder input, technology transfer, education and outreach, and research.

**Address:** 160 Governors Drive Amherst, MA 01003

**Phone:** (413) 545-2853

**Email:** morales@umass.edu

**Website:** [maeep.org](http://maeep.org)

**Massachusetts Association for Community Action (MASSCAP)**– is the statewide association of the 23 Community Action Agencies. These agencies provide a range of programs and resources to individuals and families across Massachusetts, including fuel and food assistance, housing service, etc. operating in Massachusetts.

**Address:** 105 Chauncy Street, Suite 301 Boston, MA 02111

**Phone:** 617-357-6086

**Email:** info@masscap.org

**Website:** [masscap.org/agencies/](http://masscap.org/agencies/)

**Mass Housing** – provides financing for affordable housing and addresses the housing challenges in Massachusetts. The agency administers several federal housing-related programs as well.

**Address:** One Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02108

**Phone:** 617-854-1000

**Website:** [masshousing.com/](http://masshousing.com/)

**List of Massachusetts' housing authorities:** [hud.gov/states/massachusetts/renting/hawebsites](http://hud.gov/states/massachusetts/renting/hawebsites)

**Project Hope**– Project HOPE Boston is a multi-service agency at the forefront of efforts in Boston to move families up and out of poverty. We provide low-income women with children access to education, jobs, housing, and emergency services; foster their personal transformation; and work for broader systems change.

**Address:** 550 Dudley St, Roxbury, MA 02119

**Phone:** (617) 442-1880

**Email:** [info@prohope.org](mailto:info@prohope.org)

**Website:** [prohope.org](http://prohope.org)

**Project Bread**– Project Bread is a charity that provides food assistance for hungry families in Massachusetts. Project Bread connects people and communities in Massachusetts to reliable sources of food while advocating for policies that make food more accessible—so that no one goes hungry.

**Address:** 145 Border St, Boston, MA 02128

**Phone:** (617) 723-5000

**Email:** [info@projectbread.org](mailto:info@projectbread.org)

**Website:** <https://projectbread.org/>

**Executive Office of Housing and Living Communities**– Formerly known as the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), EOHL works with municipalities, local housing authorities, non-profit organizations, and development partners to provide affordable housing options, financial assistance, and other support to Massachusetts communities

**Address:** 1000 Cambridge St. Boston, MA, 02114

**Phone:** 617-854-1000

**Email:** [webinfo@masshousing.com](mailto:webinfo@masshousing.com)

**Website:** [mass.gov/orgs/executive-office-of-housing-and-livable-communities](http://mass.gov/orgs/executive-office-of-housing-and-livable-communities)

**Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER)** – helps create a clean, affordable, equitable and resilient energy future for the Commonwealth. develops and implements policies and programs aimed at ensuring the adequacy, security, diversity, and cost-effectiveness of the Commonwealth's energy supply to create a clean, affordable, equitable and resilient energy future for all residents, businesses, communities, and Institutions.

**Address:** 100 Cambridge St., 9th Floor, Boston, MA 02114

**Phone:** (617) 626-7300

**Email:** [doer.energy@mass.gov](mailto:doer.energy@mass.gov)

**Website:** [mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-department-of-energy-resources](http://mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-department-of-energy-resources)

**Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC)**– MassCEC works to increase the adoption of clean energy while driving down costs and delivering financial, environmental, and economic development benefits to energy users and utility customers across the state. MassCEC's mission is to accelerate clean energy and climate solution Innovation.

**Address:** 294 Washington Street, Suite 1150 (11th Floor) Boston, MA 02108

**Phone:** 617-315-9300

**Email:** [info@masscec.com](mailto:info@masscec.com)

**Website:** [masscec.com](http://masscec.com)

**The Department of Public Utilities** – Oversees investor-owned electric power, natural gas, and water utilities in Massachusetts, promoting the reliability, affordability, and safety of services. DPU regulates the public safety of natural gas pipelines, bus companies, moving companies, and transportation network companies.

**Address:** 1 South Station, 3rd floor, Boston, MA 02110

**Phone:** 617-305-3500

**Website:** [mass.gov/orgs/department-of-public-utilities](https://mass.gov/orgs/department-of-public-utilities)

**Mass Energy Experts**– Mass Energy Experts saves homeowners money by completing low-cost home energy assessments for homeowners across Massachusetts.

**Address:** 733 Turnpike St #333 North Andover, MA 01845

**Phone:** 617-854-1000

**Email:** [webinfo@masshousing.com](mailto:webinfo@masshousing.com)

**Website:** [massenergyexperts.com](https://massenergyexperts.com)

**Massachusetts Office of Coastal Management (CMZ)** – the lead policy and planning agency on coastal and ocean issues within the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. works to protect Massachusetts' coastal and marine resources through planning, public involvement, education, research, and sound resource management. Implements the state's coastal program under the federal Coastal Zone Management Act.

**Address:** 100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900, Boston, MA 02114

**Phone:** 617-626-1200

**Email:** [czm@mass.gov](mailto:czm@mass.gov)

**Website:** [mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-office-of-coastal-zone-management-czm](https://mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-office-of-coastal-zone-management-czm)

**Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA)**– seeks to protect, preserve, and enhance the Commonwealth's environmental resources while ensuring a clean energy future for the state's residents. Through the stewardship of open space, protection of environmental resources, and enhancement of clean energy.

**Address:** 100 Cambridge St., 10th Floor, Boston, MA

**Phone:** (617) 626-1000

**Email:** [env.internet@mass.gov](mailto:env.internet@mass.gov)

**Website:** [mass.gov/orgs/executive-office-of-energy-and-environmental-affairs](https://mass.gov/orgs/executive-office-of-energy-and-environmental-affairs)

**Revise**– Revise was started to help homeowners save money and energy with energy efficiency solutions that are affordable to implement. As a Mass Save and NH Saves partner, Revise is able to offer 0% financing on qualifying home improvements, rebates and more. Their experienced team of technicians can perform all of the work for you.

**Address:** 131 Great Rd Bedford, MA 01730 and 32 Middlesex Street Haverhill MA 01835

**Email:** [hello@callrevise.com](mailto:hello@callrevise.com)

**Phone:** 800-885-7283

**Website:** [www.callrevise.com](https://www.callrevise.com)

**United Way of Massachusetts Bay** – *“United Way brings people together to change the world and advance the common good.”* Financial Opportunity and Educational Success. Ensuring that all families have safe housing, healthy food, and quality childcare; jobs; and that they have access to financial tools and coaching.

**Address:** 9 Channel Center St UNIT 500, Boston, MA 02210

**Phone:** (617) 624-8000

**Email:** [info@unitedwaymassbay.org](mailto:info@unitedwaymassbay.org)

**Website:** [unitedwaymassbay.org](http://unitedwaymassbay.org)

### **Massachusetts Climate Action Network**

**(MCAN)** is a non-profit organization that fights for the equitable decarbonization of buildings and the electricity supply in Massachusetts. MCAN supports local chapters across the state by implementing carbon-reducing practices, and strengthening policies. Helping set up energy committees, draft climate action plans, integrate energy efficiency measures, and help pass local Resolutions. MCAN’s role as a facilitator of municipal-level action is unique among Massachusetts environmental groups.

**Address:** 100 Cambridge Street 14th Floor #8423 Boston, MA 02114

**Website:** [www.massclimateaction.org](http://www.massclimateaction.org)

Click [here](#) to see a list of MCAN Local Chapters.

## **Suffolk County Energy Efficiency Resources**

**Newton BERDO** – The term "Newton BERDO" refers to the Building Energy Reporting and Disclosure Ordinance (BERDO) in the city of Newton, Massachusetts. BERDO is a municipal regulation that requires building owners to report and disclose energy usage and other relevant information for their buildings. The primary aim of the ordinance is to promote energy efficiency and sustainability in buildings within the city.

**Green Newton** – Green Newton is a grassroots environmental organization based in Newton, Massachusetts. The organization is dedicated to promoting sustainability, environmental awareness, and eco-friendly practices within the city of Newton. Green Newton's mission is to encourage residents, businesses, and local government to adopt more environmentally responsible behaviors and make choices that reduce their environmental impact, including energy efficiency

**Greenovate Boston** – Greenovate is a Boston-based organization dedicated to a greener and more sustainable Boston, looking to build a more resilient city. Greenovates focuses on initiatives dedicated to making Boston carbon neutral, installing climate mitigation practices in the city and making Boston a zero-waste city. One innovative Greenovate takes

on is to be at the forefront of the emerging technology of virtual energy assessments for buildings.

*to stay comfortable and save energy and money in their homes.*

In the following section, you will find some do-it-yourself tips to maximize energy efficiency and cost savings during both the warm and cold months of the year

## Warm Weather Energy Saving Tips

### Fan Yourself

Fans are more energy and cost-efficient than air conditioning (AC). Just remember to turn off the fans when you're not in the room. They aren't intended to cool the space— just the people in the space via the wind chill effect.

### Optimize Your Thermostat

If you opt for air conditioning (AC), the US Department of Energy recommends setting your thermostat to 78°F in the summer to save up to 10% in energy costs each year. For every degree you raise your thermostat above 72 degrees, you can save up to 3% of your cooling expenses. Also, consider setting your thermostat to a higher, less energy-intensive temperature while you're not home. Make sure you get routine maintenance checks of your AC; [50%](#) of system failures associated with AC units are due to a lack of maintenance.

### Monitor Water Usage

In the summer, water usage increases— whether it's watering your lawn or taking more showers. You can keep usage down and save money by:

- Getting a rain barrel to collect water for your garden or lawn.
- Watering grass and plants in the early morning or at dusk, so the water doesn't evaporate in the summer heat.

# Tips for Saving Energy and Money in Your Home Year Round

*In Massachusetts, we experience all four seasons— harsh winters, muddy springs, hot summers, and crisp falls. However, because of climate change, we are experiencing even more extreme weather patterns each year. Remember those hurricane winds a few autumns ago? Those balmy Christmases and that snowy May Day? Extreme and unpredictable weather means that Mass residents must adapt to many different kinds of conditions and temperatures*

- Installing “low-flow” water fixtures, such as shower heads, toilets, and outdoor sprinklers.
- Taking cool showers and washing dishes with cold water.

### Close the Blinds & Check Seals

Using a fan isn’t the only way to keep your home cooler in the hot summer months. Take a quick walk around the house and close all the blinds and curtains during the day. This will keep your rooms from heating up and make spaces easier to cool with an air conditioner or fan. At night you can open the windows to let in the cooler night air. You can also add weather stripping to your doors and windows to better insulate your home.

## Cold Weather Energy Saving Tips

### Rock Your Winter Wardrobe Indoors

Layer up and stay bundled around the house in your winter best. [You can save 5%](#) for every degree you drop your thermostat between 60–70 degrees, so slip on your coziest sweatshirt and some fuzzy socks to let your clothes do the warming.

### Decrease the Heat

Turn your thermostat to 58 degrees when you leave your home or before you go to bed in the winter months. According to the US Dept. of Energy, turning the heat down by 7 to 10 degrees for an 8-hour period at night or when you are at work can cut your heating bill by 10%. Do not turn off your heat completely though as your pipes could become frozen. Conversely, if your home gets too hot, condensed air can negatively impact wood products such as flooring.

**Let The Sunshine In** Take advantage of the world’s best furnace– the sun! Naturally heat

your home by drawing the curtains of south-facing windows during the day to let the sunshine in. You’ll save money on your heating bill and get to appreciate the wintery backdrop.

## Tips to Follow Rain or Shine All Year Round!

**Swap Out Old Light Bulbs With LEDs** Not only are LED bulbs **83%** more energy efficient than traditional incandescent bulbs, but they also cost \$1.19 annually compared to the \$7.01 annual cost of incandescent bulbs. LED lights also contain less toxic chemicals like mercury.

### Wash Your Clothes with Cold Water and Minimize Loads

Washing your clothes with cold water could save you up to **\$200** annually! Also, try to air dry your clothes instead of using a dryer and do BIG loads of laundry. Doing one load of laundry has the same carbon footprint as leaving an LED light on for 13 days straight.

### Eliminate Phantom Loads/Energy Vampires

[Energy vampires](#) or Phantom Loads are appliances or plugged-in devices that draw energy even when not in use, usually by being in “standby” mode. Vampire energy can account for up to 10% of your monthly energy bill! The best way to avoid vampire energy is to plug energy vampires into power strips that can be turned off when not in use. Common appliances that are energy vampires include:

- Phone chargers
- Desktop computers
- Stereos and TVs
- Coffee makers
- Microwaves,
- Video game consoles
- Satellite & cable boxes
- Printers

### Turn off the Lights



Turn off the lights and other electronics when not in use --it's such a simple way to help the planet!

### **Follow the "Three R's" - Reduce, Reuse, Recycle**

When following the "Three R's," reducing your consumption of energy, for example, is the best option. If you are unable to reduce the action you are participating in, the next best options are to reuse then recycle. You can also implement these guidelines in many other daily habits, such as reducing food waste by composting, reusing water bottles, and recycling appropriate materials from your residence.

### **Energy Saving Tips**

- Caulk and weatherstrip doors and windows that leak air.
- When home, turn down the heat to 68° For as low as comfortable.
- When you are asleep or away from home, turn thermostat back 7° to 10° for eight hours and save as much as 10% a year on your heating and cooling bills.
- Consider changing to a programmable thermostat.
- Turn down the temperature of your hot water heater to 120°.
- Have your oil-fired heating system serviced annually or your gas-fired heating system serviced every three years.
- Clean or replace furnace filters every other month.
- Keep the fireplace flue damper closed unless a fire is burning.
- Check that warm-air registers, baseboard heaters, and radiators are not blocked by furniture or drapes.
- During the winter heating season, close your curtains and shades at night; open them during the day.

# Glossary

<b>The Climate Crisis</b>	The urgent and escalating global environmental challenge characterized by significant and adverse changes in climate patterns. It is primarily driven by human activities, such as the burning of fossil fuels, deforestation, and industrial processes, leading to increased concentrations of greenhouse gasses in the atmosphere and resulting in long-term changes in temperature, weather patterns, and sea levels.
<b>Energy Burden</b>	Energy Burden is the proportion of a household's income that is spent on energy-related expenses, including electricity, heating, and cooling. A high energy burden indicates that a significant portion of a household's income is allocated to meeting energy needs, potentially leading to financial strain.
<b>Energy Efficiency</b>	Energy Efficiency refers to the use of less energy to provide the same level of performance or output. It involves adopting technologies, practices, and systems that minimize energy waste and enhance the overall effectiveness of energy use, contributing to reduced energy consumption and environmental impact.
<b>Greenhouse Gasses</b>	Greenhouse Gasses are atmospheric gasses that trap heat, leading to the greenhouse effect and the warming of the Earth's surface. Common greenhouse gasses include carbon dioxide (CO <sub>2</sub> ), methane (CH <sub>4</sub> ), nitrous oxide (N <sub>2</sub> O), and fluorinated gasses. Human activities, such as burning fossil fuels and deforestation, significantly contribute to the increased concentrations of these gasses, contributing to climate change.
<b>Inflation Reduction Act</b>	The Inflation Reduction Act is a legislative measure designed to address and mitigate the impacts of inflation on the economy. It may include policies and strategies aimed at controlling inflation, stabilizing prices, and promoting economic growth while minimizing adverse effects on consumers and businesses.
<b>Phantom Loads</b>	Phantom loads refer to the energy consumed by devices when they are off or in standby mode.
<b>Rebate</b>	A Rebate is a partial refund or discount on a product or service. In the context of energy, rebates are often provided by governments or utility companies to incentivize individuals or businesses to adopt energy-efficient technologies or practices. These financial incentives help offset the initial costs of implementing energy-efficient measures.
<b>Weatherization</b>	Weatherization involves making structural and operational improvements to a building or home to enhance its resistance to the impacts of weather conditions. This may include insulation, sealing gaps and cracks, upgrading

windows and doors, and other measures aimed at improving energy efficiency and reducing energy consumption for heating and cooling. Weatherization initiatives contribute to both cost savings for individuals and a reduction in overall energy demand