

HOW TO MAKE YOUR HOME ENERGY AND COST EFFICIENT



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Introduction

With winter coming on, are you ready to find out if in fact your home is as energy efficient as it can be?

Most of us have some big and some small things that they can do to better the cost efficiency of home. Whether you just want to drop a few dollars off of your gas bill or you are looking for a better way to fuel your home altogether, doing just a few things can make a tremendous amount of difference in your home.

Why bother with cost efficiency? You can afford the bills so why bother? Many people will be shocked to learn that they can lose up to 25% or more of the energy in their home without the need to. You literally could be flushing your money down the drain.

The good news is that making your home energy efficient does not have to be overly challenging. It also does not have to be overly costly either. There are some changes that will cost a decent amount of money to implement into a home. These are usually the things that need to be taken into consideration if you plan to save a great deal of money.

As you will see in this eBook, there are plenty of things that you can do to better your home's ability to use energy more wisely from just about every aspect you can imagine. But, in our first chapters, we need to take the time to really analyze if in fact making the change is worth it.

There are some products and some companies that do promise that you will save a great deal of money and you wind up investing a great deal to wind up not saving anything.

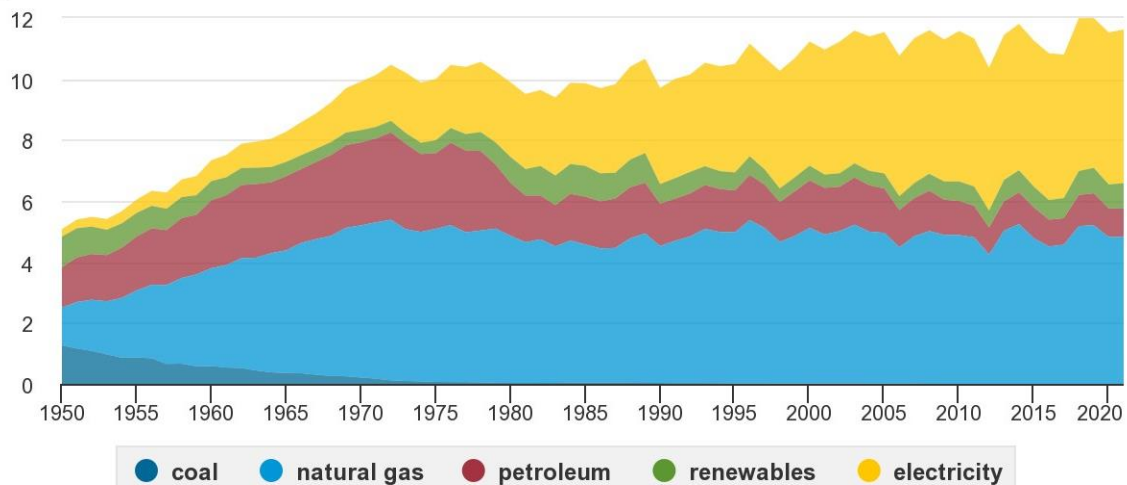
The best thing for anyone that is looking to improve their home's ability to use energy wisely is to take a good look at what the product or need is, how it is used, the cost of the product and the cost of the installation and then determine if in fact it has the potential of making up those funds through energy savings. Some won't. Others will.

Throughout this eBook, you will learn things that you can do right away to improve the energy efficiency of your home. You will also learn different ways to save money on everyday needs that you have. You will find yourself saving money and living in a more efficient and more environmentally friendly home.

Before going any further, let's take a look at residential energy use in the United States and how it has changed over recent years. Electricity use has been increasing and petroleum use, decreasing.

U.S. residential sector energy consumption by energy source, 1950 to 2021

quadrillion British thermal units



Data source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, *Monthly Energy Review*, Table 2.2, April 2022, preliminary data for 2021

 Note: Electricity excludes losses in electricity generation and delivery. Petroleum includes heating oil, liquefied petroleum gas (propane), and kerosene. Renewables includes wood, geothermal energy, and solar energy.

The Changing Landscape of Residential Energy Costs

Residential energy costs have undergone significant transformations in recent years, driven by various factors such as technological advancements, policy changes, and shifting market dynamics. Let's explore the key trends and factors impacting residential energy costs and provide an overview of how they have changed over time.

1. The Rise of Renewable Energy:

One of the most notable shifts in the residential energy sector has been the increasing adoption of renewable energy sources. The declining costs of solar panels and wind turbines have made renewable energy more accessible to homeowners. As a result, many households are now generating their own electricity, reducing their dependence on traditional energy providers, and lowering their energy bills.

According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), the average residential electricity price per kilowatt-hour (kWh) for the residential sector decreased by 2.2% from 2010 to 2019, partially due to the increased use of renewable energy sources.

2. Energy Efficiency Measures:

Another factor influencing residential energy costs is the growing emphasis on energy efficiency. Governments and organizations worldwide have been promoting energy-saving measures to reduce consumption and costs. This includes the use of energy-efficient appliances (Energy Star-rated), improved insulation, and smart home technologies.

By adopting energy-efficient practices, homeowners can significantly reduce their energy consumption and, consequently, their energy bills. The International Energy Agency (IEA) estimates that energy efficiency measures implemented between 2000 and 2019 saved households around 38% in energy costs.

3. Fluctuating Fuel Prices:

The cost of fuel is a significant driver of residential energy costs, particularly for homes that rely on heating oil, natural gas, or propane. The volatility of fuel