

Federal Government Programs that Help You Save Money While You Help the Planet

1. The new climate bill offers a rebate of up to \$1,600 to install insulation and seal up drafts, making your home more energy-efficient. Sealing air leaks can make your home more comfortable, and can save up to **10% on annual energy bills**, and includes weather stripping on doors, caulking around windows, and adding insulation in the attic. Installing new windows and doors qualifies for tax credits of up to **\$1,200 per year**, which not only helps improve the looks of your home, but can help increase energy efficiency if your home's entrances have lost their tight seal. Replace windows and doors if there is air leakage, visible damage or rot in the frame, or if there is condensation between panes, or if they no longer open or close easily.
2. Minnesota's new 69-page Climate Action Framework has adopted stiffer goals to cut emissions **50% by 2030, leading to net-zero by 2050** in an effort to cap the temperature rise to **1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 F)**. Moving away from fossil fuel-powered appliances, such as water heaters, will use less energy to create the same amount of hot water. **Heat pump water heaters** or hybrid electric water heaters, capture heat from the surrounding air and transfer it to a tank to heat water. Energy-efficient water heaters use a **third of the electricity and are a third cheaper** than conventional electric water heaters. Up to **\$1,750** for a high-efficiency all-electric heat pump water heater is offered through the new federal climate bill.
3. Even as nearly **90% of Minnesota communities** have reported feeling the effects of climate change over the past three years, **only 14%** of them have made plans to adapt to a changing climate, such as raising roads, upgrading stormwater pipes or planting more resilient trees, according to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). One way individual homeowners can help to lower the carbon emissions causing rising temperatures and climate change is by **replacing their clothes dryer** with a high-efficiency all-electric heat pump dryer. Heat pump dryers use about **30% less energy** than conventional ones by heating the air and using it to remove moisture from the clothes. Then it reuses the air once the moisture is removed. Look for heat pump dryers that use **refrigerants with a low global warming potential**. The new climate bill offers up to **\$840 to homeowners** for making this upgrade.
4. According to Department of Energy data, if just **2% of U.S. households** switched to green energy, the reduction in air pollution would generate upward of **\$983 million in public health benefits**, which would more than pay for the entire energy transition. **Replacing your electric panel**, or breaker box, can improve the efficiency of your home, and up to **\$4,000 in the new climate bill** can be used for this important component of your home and the core of all wiring and electrical features. A new breaker box will operate more efficiently than outdated ones, so powering your home will not only require less energy, but will help reduce carbon emissions and is less expensive over time.

5. The new Minnesota Climate Action Framework plan has set a standard for **100% carbon-free electricity by 2040**, with slightly more than half from renewables. It will require all new commercial and large multifamily buildings to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2036. Individual homeowners can also participate in lowering carbon emissions by **rewiring their homes** to distribute power more evenly, boosting the home's efficiency. **A rebate of up to \$2,500** for improvements to electrical wiring is included in the new federal climate bill. Such improvements help prevent the potentially expensive short circuits, arc faults, and overloads that outdated electrical wiring can be prone to.