



RE-ENERGIZE YOUR HOME
INVESTING IN
ENERGY
EFFICIENCY

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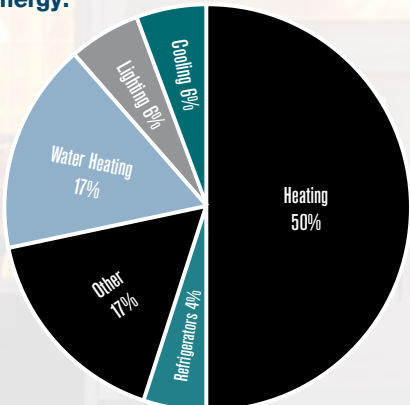


RE-ENERGIZE YOUR LARGEST INVESTMENT

Most likely, your home is the largest investment you'll make in your lifetime. Investing in your home's energy efficiency will pay multiple dividends; less energy use, lower utility bills, increased home value and a healthier environment.

Think of your home as an entire energy system. Each component depends on the performance of the other to make your home energy efficient. Will an ENERGY STAR® qualified water heater save you energy and money if you use a water-wasting showerhead? Will new insulated windows be able to do their job if you have an old, inefficient furnace? Whether you're remodeling or upgrading equipment, think about the proper order of investments. Making the right investments to ensure that each unit is working efficiently is a big step toward saving energy, money and the environment.

How a typical Northwest home uses energy:



IMPROVING YOUR HOME'S COMFORT IS RE-ENERGIZING

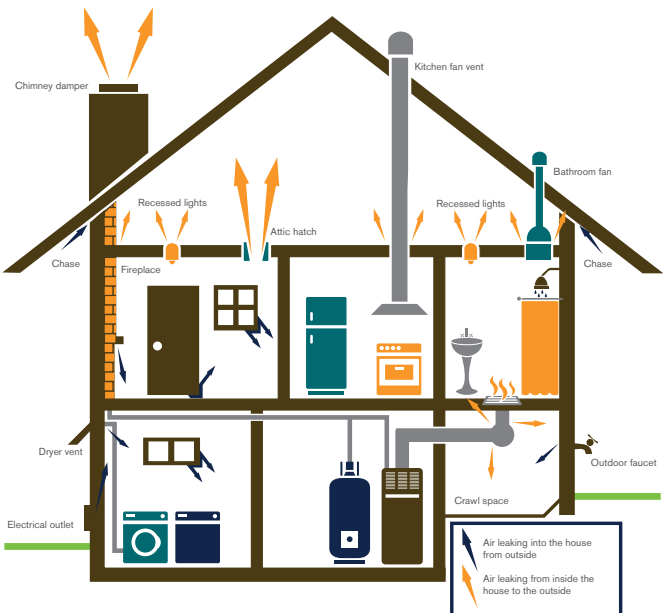
Insulation



New home building code requires floor and wall insulation. If your home was built before 1990, you most likely need an insulation upgrade. Good insulation is an inexpensive way to make a big improvement in home comfort.

- Hot air usually rises so make sure there is at least 12 to 18 inches of insulation in your attic ceiling.
- Insulate around crawl space hatches and gaskets.
- Floor insulation costs less but saves less energy while wall insulation is more expensive but returns more savings.
- Ensure that your duct system is properly insulated particularly if it runs outside the home or through your attic or crawl spaces to your central heating system.

Where does air flow in and out?



GETTING THE MOST FOR YOUR MONEY IS RE-ENERGIZING

Sealing



Air leaks in the home and duct system can be the single largest cause of heat loss, in older homes especially. Sealing them properly can reduce draft and moisture problems while making your home more comfortable and energy efficient.

- Air sealing and duct sealing can save up to 30 percent on heating and cooling costs.
- Air sealing is more than just caulking and weatherstripping. Hire a professional to help you find hidden leaks. They can help you make sure you don't seal your home too tightly by keeping it properly ventilated with venting and fans with timers.
- Seal ducts, especially the ones that run outside the home or through your attic or crawl spaces.

Heating



Your heating system is the largest energy user in your home, so efficient upgrades here have immediate impacts. If your home is properly insulated and sealed, some of your biggest energy savings will come from replacing an inefficient system.

Homes heated with electricity:

- Upgrade electric resistance heating equipment (furnaces, baseboard and wall heaters) to air-source heat pump systems such as a ductless system. They are two to three times more efficient but cost less than ground or water-source heat pump systems.
- Convert your system to natural gas if available to your home.

Homes heated with natural gas:

- Upgrade resistance heating systems to high-efficiency natural gas furnaces.
- ENERGY STAR qualified natural gas furnaces save 10 to 15 percent more energy than a new basic model.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR HOME IS RE-ENERGIZING

Water Heating



- Replace a water heater 12 years or older with an ENERGY STAR qualified model. It uses 10 percent less energy than standard models.
- Think about upgrading to a tankless model rather than storage. It saves space and produces hot water on demand so there's no standby heat loss.

Lighting



- Replace incandescent bulbs and fixtures with ENERGY STAR qualified compact fluorescent light (CFL) and light emitting diode (LED) bulbs and fixtures.
- LED bulbs are the most efficient lights that you can buy, using 80 percent less energy than an incandescent bulb, while CFL bulbs use 75 percent less energy and last up to ten times longer than an incandescent bulb.

SAVINGS TIP

Take on multiple projects at once. Having your contractor seal your ducts while installing insulation or a new heating system will help keep costs down and ensure that your home is reaching its full savings potential.

Appliances and Electronics



- Many electronics draw power even when turned off. Plug items like TVs, DVD players and game consoles into power strips that you can switch off when not in use. Special "smart" power strips do this automatically.
- Purchase ENERGY STAR qualified appliances and electronics and program them correctly to ensure they're running as efficiently as possible.

SIMPLY SAVING ENERGY IS RE-ENERGIZING

Windows and doors



- Double-pane, low-emissivity windows will keep your home warmer in winter and cooler in summer. If the systems in your home are already efficient, an investment in new windows will save you more on your energy bill.
- Upgrading windows is a higher priority for homes with single-pane or early models of double-pane aluminum framed windows than it is for homes with older vinyl-framed windows. Replacing these windows could lower your energy use by 10 to 12 percent.
- Replace a cold, drafty door with one that has an insulated core to hold heated and cooled air.



What is ENERGY STAR?

Products that have earned the ENERGY STAR label have been tested to meet stringent performance criteria established by the U.S. Department of Energy and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

That saves energy?



- There are many everyday decisions you can make around your house that will help your home retain its heated and cooled air.
- Use awnings, shutters, blinds and drapes to minimize heat loss in the winter and block out sun in the summer.
- Plant deciduous trees in front of western facing windows and siding. They shade your home in the summer and, when their leaves fall, they'll allow the sun's rays to warm your house when it's cold.

PRIORITIZING YOUR INVESTMENTS IS RE-ENERGIZING




So, let's take a walk through your home and see where you could be saving ...

These energy-efficiency investments are prioritized based on typical savings potential and initial costs to help you make the most effective decisions.




Not all homes will have the same set of energy-saving priorities. Keep in mind the age and style of your home. Many homes built before 1990 have insufficient insulation, heating systems and leaky windows but even newer homes could be susceptible to energy loss. Each home is unique.

Key

- Initial cost: *Your investment*

 = low  = moderate  = high

- Energy savings: *Your return*

 = low  = moderate  = high

Need advice? Puget Sound Energy can help!

Visit [PSE.com/ReENERGIZE](https://www.pse.com/ReENERGIZE) or call a PSE Energy Advisor at **1-800-562-1482**, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., for personalized tips, efficient product information and contractor referrals.

PSE also offers rebates on the products and services you'll need to invest in to make your home energy efficient. Visit [PSE.com/Rebates](https://www.pse.com/Rebates) for a list of money-saving offers.



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