

Energy Efficiency Options for Multifamily Buildings

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Getting Started with Energy Benchmarking

Understanding Building Performance & Improvement Opportunities:

- You can't manage what you don't measure...
- Verify savings and return on investments – and prevent snapback
- ENERGY STAR Portfolio manager is a FREE online tool to benchmark whole building energy use (and water and waste!)
- Collect building characteristics needed to understand usage using the [Multifamily Data Collection Worksheet](#)
- Request whole building aggregated data from ComEd, Peoples Gas or Nicor

<https://www.energystar.gov/buildings/benchmark>

CUB's Guide to Going Green

[Great tool for sharing](#) with residents and tenants!

- Adjust Your Thermostat
- Eliminate Vampire Power
- Keep it Cold
- Skip the Dryer
- Insulate Hot Water Pipes
- Set Your Water Heater
- Weatherize Openings
- Change Filters

[ENERGY STAR:](#)

https://www.energystar.gov/products/top_10_tips_renters



Adjust Your Thermostat — The U.S. Department of Energy says you can save about 3 percent on your utility bill for every degree you raise the temperature in warm weather or lower the temperature in cold weather. When you're home, try setting it at about 78 degrees in summer (a bit higher when you're asleep) and about 68 degrees in winter (a bit lower when you're asleep). If you're chilly, throw on an extra layer, wear slippers around the house, and grab a warm drink. Be smart about it. Never set the thermostat at a temperature that threatens your health.

Eliminate Vampire Power — Vampire power is the electricity wasted on appliances that aren't being used but are still plugged in. For example, a coffee maker with an LED light or an entertainment center. Such energy waste can add up to 10 percent of your electricity bill. Unplug such appliances when not in use, and buy a smart power strip for the entertainment system.

Keep It Cold — Washing machines use about 90 percent of their energy to heat the water. Cool or cold water cleans your clothes just as well as warm or hot water, and making the switch can save you money (about \$40 a year, according to the EPA).

Skip the Dryer — While you're in the laundry room, consider skipping the dryer and investing in a drying rack or a clothesline to air dry some of your laundry. If you don't have that option, avoid overfilling the dryer and opt for a lower heat setting.

Insulate Your Hot Water Heater — Inspect your hot water tank. If it has an R-value less than 24, or if the tank is hot to the touch, consider insulating it. According to the Department of Energy, doing so could reduce standby heat losses by 25 to 45 percent and save you more than 15 percent on your water heating costs. To insulate, consider purchasing a pre-cut insulating blanket or jacket that fits your water heater—they cost about \$40.

Set Your Water Heater to 120 — Lower the temperature on your water heater to the warm setting (120 degrees). For every 10 degree reduction in temperature, you can save up to 5 percent on your water heating costs, according to the U.S. Department of Energy. When water heating accounts for around 12 percent of a family's utility bill, that can make a big difference. Besides, exposure to water over 120 degrees can lead to scalding or minor burns.

Weatherize Your Windows and Doors —That uncomfortable draft you feel in the living room could be costing you. The Department of Energy estimates that by sealing leaks and cracks around your home, you could save up to 20 percent on your heating and cooling costs. Installing weatherstripping around doors and windows is one of the most cost-effective and simple ways of doing so.

Change Your Furnace Filter — Make sure your furnace or HVAC filter is clean. If you're using pleated air filters, you should change the filter every 3 months, more often during the heating season. If you use fiberglass filters, you'll need a replacement filter almost every month. A dirty filter will make the system work harder and waste energy. Regularly installing new filters will also help maintain a healthy indoor air quality. **Note:** Homeowners with severe allergies, asthma or other respiratory conditions should consider changing the air filter more often.

Free Utility Energy Assessments:

Property Owners (Condo Boards) & Landlords:


- Joint program offering from ComEd, Peoples Gas and Nicor
- Owners of multi-family buildings (3 units or more) and Public Housing Authorities are eligible for a FREE energy assessment that will help you understand how your property uses energy and recommend ways you and your tenants can save money and energy.
- The energy assessment will also provide more information on free and discounted products and equipment that are available for your property.
- Visit the [Multi-Family Energy Savings Portal](#) or call [1-855-433-2700](tel:1-855-433-2700) to schedule your assessment.

Free Utility Energy Assessments:

Benefits

- Save you money on your energy bills.
- Enhance your comfort.
- Improve building safety.
- Lower your property's carbon footprint for a healthier living space and cleaner environment for future generations.

Products may include:

- ENERGY STAR® certified LEDs
 - Programmable or smart thermostats
 - WaterSense® certified showerheads and faucet aerators
 - Advanced power strips
 - Incentives for heat pumps and other HVAC system upgrades
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Municipal or Community Landing Pages: Sustain Oak Park

**SELECT THE OPTION THAT BEST DESCRIBES
YOUR HOUSEHOLD**

RENTER

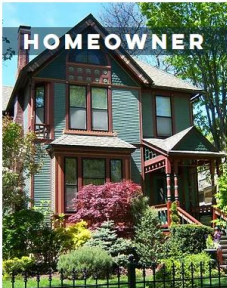


I rent my home or apartment, **and** I am interested in income-qualified programs. (see below)

I rent my home or apartment.

[Click here](#) [Click here](#)

HOMEOWNER




I own my home, **and** I am interested in income-qualified programs. (see below)

I own my home.

[Click here](#) [Click here](#)


DEVELOPER



I am a developer

[Click here](#)

LANDLORD



I am a multifamily property owner.

[Click here](#)

<https://www.sustainoakpark.com/get-started>

Municipal or Community Landing Pages: Sustain Oak Park

STEP 3: ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Use high-performing equipment to save money over the long-term

Interested in making your building more energy efficient but put off by the high investment? Local utility companies are offering the free [Multi-Family Home Energy Savings program](#) (external link). Expect to receive weatherization improvements, free installation of programmable or smart thermostats, and advanced power strips. Instant discounts on energy saving appliances are also available.

[Illinois Energy Efficiency Loan](#) program offer special financing for energy efficiency services and products (external link). The loan is repayable as a charge on your monthly bill.

Qualified customers can receive additional free energy efficiency home improvements. Call ComEd at [855-433-2700](#) to determine if you qualify.

The Village of Oak Park offers weatherization, energy efficiency, and solar panel grants of up to \$10,000 for eligible properties. Funding is limited, and grants are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. To apply for an Oak Park Energy Grant, contact the Development Customer Services Department's Neighborhood Services Division at [708-358-5410](#).

[More Information](#)



<https://www.sustainoakpark.com/get-started>

Resources to get started:

- ComEd's Smart Assistance Finder Tool (SAM)
 - <https://secure.comed.com/assistance/landing>
- ComEd, Peoples Gas, Nicor Gas - Multi-family Ways to Save FAQ
 - <https://www.comed.com/ways-to-save/for-your-home/home-energy-savings/multi-family/faqs>
- Utility Multi-family Energy Savings Portal
 - <https://www.comed.com/ways-to-save/for-your-home/home-energy-savings/multi-family/faqs>
- ENERGY STAR Low & No-Cost Tips for Renters
 - https://www.energystar.gov/products/top_10_tips_renters
- CUB's Utility Checklist for Renters
 - https://www.citizensutilityboard.org/electric_renterchecklist/
- CUB's Better Heat Guide
 - <https://secure.everyaction.com/g-c5G4IJU2ieXKsKtqzqA2>
- CUB's Guide to the Inflation Reduction Act
 - https://secure.everyaction.com/IEBrOxTmmEy7tgJITj_ZRA2
- ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager Trainings and How-To Guides
 - <https://www.energystar.gov/buildings/training>

