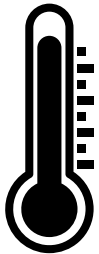
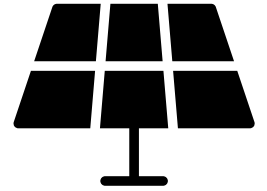


Community and Residential Improvement Opportunities

Installing solar panels

Installing solar panels on a home, church, or business can produce the electricity needed to run your heating and cooling systems, computers, or appliances. Although an investment, there is a 30% federal tax credit. Since you generate your electricity from the sun, you save on monthly electricity bills. Additional tax credits if you send electricity back to the grid. Community solar also services rural areas where you can become a member and save on electricity too!

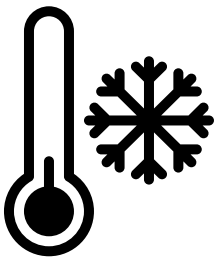
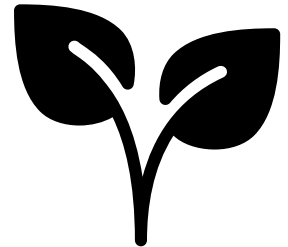


Upgrading to an electric heating/cooling pump

Although it is an initial investment, there are many rebate programs. These systems use less energy and save money on monthly energy bills. You can remove large natural gas systems. Less stress means more resilience.

Increase green infrastructure

Green infrastructure is putting in place natural systems like trees, retention ponds, green spaces, etc. These are resilient practices because they help absorb extra water during rain events and help us keep cool during high temperatures. They can also reduce the impact of high winds on property.

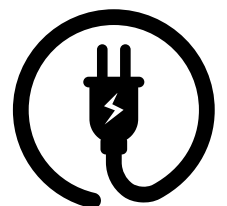


Weatherizing homes

Weatherizing or weatherization is the practice of making a home more insulated and less impacted by the outside environment. This can mean adding insulation or sealing windows to keep the house warm in the winter and cool in the summer.

Replacing gas appliances with electric appliances

Often the next step after installing solar panels is replacing gas appliances with electric so you can utilize renewable electricity from the grid or solar panels, potentially saving even more on monthly bills.



Community and Residential Improvement Opportunities

Salt alternatives

Beet juice is less expensive and better on vehicles than salt. Not to mention it drastically reduces salt in our freshwater. It is less corrosive too. You can also save your old coffee grounds, another great use for sidewalks and driveways.

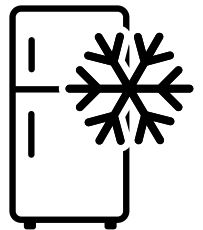


Safety Shelter for Community Members

Sometimes the most vulnerable people live in areas most likely to be impacted by natural disasters. Community storm shelters can ensure that in the event of extreme heat/cold or a loss of power, people have access to water, electricity, and health services.

Upgrading or Increasing Fridge Space at a Grocery Store

Depending on location, healthy foods like fresh fruits, vegetables, and proteins can be difficult to access. In rural areas, some people need to drive 30 minutes to access a full-service grocery store.



DIY Projects

Adding rain gardens and increasing native vegetation is simple and fun. There are great programs and assistance out there to help. Get the younger generation involved as well!

Helpful Links

Solsmart Silver Designation Solar on Public Buildings

<https://www.rndc.org/region-nine-development-commission-awarded-solsmart-silverdesignation-for-advancing-solar-energy/>



Morris is a Small Minnesota Town with Big Climate Goals

<https://www.rndc.org/morris-is-a-small-minnesota-town-with-big-climate-goals/>



Empower Students to Solve Your Community's Environmental Challenges with YES! Youth Eco Solutions

<https://yesmn.org/get-involved/how-to-start-a-team/>

