

Title: Maximize your Home's Efficiency and Save!

It takes a lot of energy to stay warm in Northern New England. Over 70% of Vermonters rely on fossil fuels to heat their homes and buildings. This heavy reliance on imported fossil fuels imparts a high-cost on Vermonters' pocketbooks – and the planet. Thankfully, there are cleaner, less-costly, more efficient, and healthier ways to stay warm in Vermont's cold-climate. There is also a great resource available to help explore the solutions that could work best for you.

Efficiency Vermont, the statewide energy efficiency utility, offers virtual home energy visits for people who want to learn more about how to make their home more efficient and reduce reliance on fossil fuels. This free service is available to Vermont homeowners and renters, and offers guidance on specific areas for home improvement and a personalized list of next steps. Schedule a one-on-one video consultation with an energy expert directly on the [Efficiency Vermont website](#) (no phone call needed!). Before your visit, check out this blog for tips on how to get ready – [How to prepare for a virtual home energy visit | Efficiency Vermont](#).

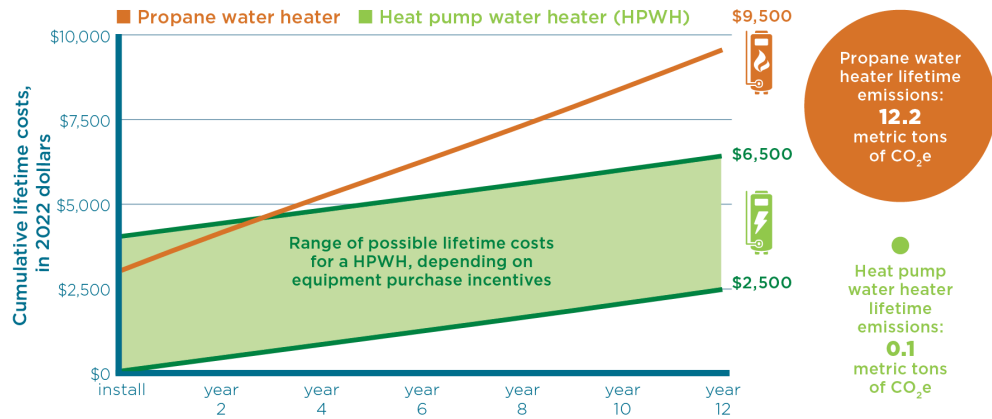
Efficiency Vermont also offers over-the-phone consultations and professional on-site assessments. These three types of home energy assessments offered through Efficiency Vermont are all great tools to help you understand where your home is losing heat or wasting electricity, and how you can work to address it. Read about a Barre couple who took advantage of a virtual home energy visit and got advice which saved them money and helped them live more comfortably [here](#)!

Additionally, through the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022, there are a lot of incentives available to Vermonters to make efficiency and electric upgrades to their home:

The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) of 2022 directed nearly \$400 billion in federal funding to climate and energy initiatives. This included funding for expanded tax credits and rebates for decarbonization solutions, including heat pumps, electric vehicles, rooftop solar, and more. These federal incentives can be combined with state and utility incentives to make clean energy solutions more affordable. Already, Vermonters have been twice as likely as residents of other states to take advantage of IRA tax credits, with the 3rd highest rate of uptake of IRA efficiency tax credits in the nation. Visit <https://homes.rewiringamerica.org/calculator> [\[homes.rewiringamerica.org\]](https://homes.rewiringamerica.org) to learn more about available incentives.

Cleaner, electric heating solutions are particularly cost-effective. For example, switching to a heat pump water heater can save you thousands of dollars in lifetime costs:

Lifetime costs of propane water heater vs. heat pump water heater (installed cost + fuel)

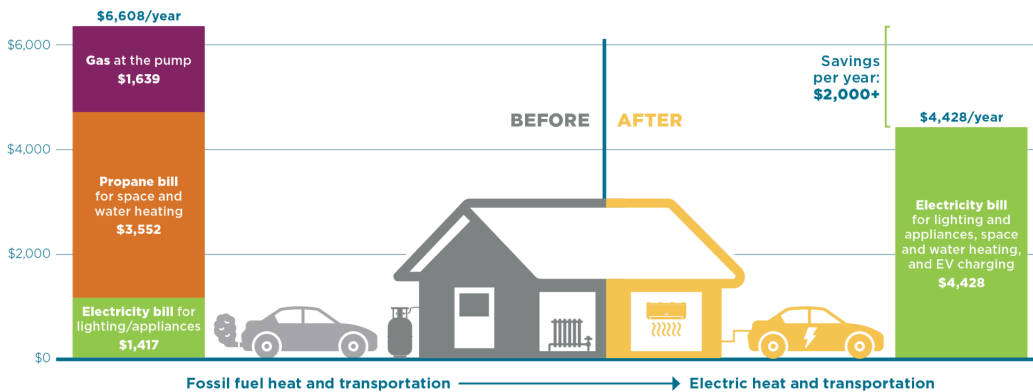


Sources: Annual energy load and efficiency assumptions from the Efficiency Vermont 2023 Technical Reference Manual; Propane emissions factor from EPA; Electricity emissions factors assume a linear reduction over time, reaching zero emissions by 2035 in accordance with Vermont's Renewable Energy Standard. Prices shown are in 2022 dollars and reflect projections from EIA's 2023 Annual Energy Outlook for 2024-2035. **Note:** While installed costs of propane water heaters can vary, there is greater variation in heat pump water heater installed costs due to the availability of incentives. Different installed costs for heat pump water heaters reflect federal tax credits and state-level incentives for various income levels, including Switch and Save and Weatherization Assistance Program incentives that can bring the upfront cost as low as \$0.



While each home is different, the benefits of a well-insulated home paired with heating solutions like cold-climate heat pumps are significant. Below is just one example...

Estimated annual energy bill costs for a sample Vermont single-family household, before and after electrification



Sources: Energy bill savings calculated based on the average monthly prices for propane, gasoline, and electricity in 2023, from the Vermont Department of Public Service and EIA. Electricity bill costs for lighting and appliances reflect statewide average annual household electricity expenditures (Efficiency Vermont, "Vermont Energy Burden Report," 2023). Annual transportation fuel costs calculated using average fuel efficiency of 23.4 MPG for vehicles registered in VT from the 2021 Vermont Transportation Energy Profile and VT average annual vehicle miles traveled (VMT) of 11,084 miles/year from the Federal Highway Administration. **Note:** Actual energy bill savings will depend on a number of factors, including a household's electricity rate. Several Vermont utilities offer lower electric rates for managed EV charging, providing additional savings to households with access to those rates. Upfront equipment/vehicle costs vary based on model and incentive eligibility; because of this variance, upfront costs are not quantified here. Savings estimates are for a one car household. Savings will be higher for households replacing multiple gas vehicles with electric vehicles.



Begin your exploration into what efficiency upgrades you can do for your home with Efficiency Vermont and take advantage of the [Rewiring America Calculator](#) to learn about all of the federal, state, and utility incentives you can access – and stack – to help make these investments possible for you and your family.

Beyond the household benefits of cleaner heat, reducing reliance on fossil fuels has a significant climate benefit. Approximately 35% of climate pollution in Vermont comes from heating our homes and buildings. Moving more and more Vermonters to cleaner, healthier energy solutions will play a powerful role in ensuring Vermont meets its legally mandated, science-based targets to do our state’s part to cut planet-warming pollution. As Vermont works towards meeting these requirements, there are a lot of opportunities and resources available to make the initial transition affordable so that your family and the state can realize all of the long term benefits.

Resources:

Book a Virtual Home Energy Visit:

<https://www.encyvermont.com/rebates/list/home-energy-visit>

Find more information on Weatherization and Energy Efficiency help:

<https://www.nwwvt.org/heat-squad/>

Rewiring America Calculator:

<https://homes.rewiringamerica.org/calculator> [homes.rewiringamerica.org]

Energy Action Network Annual Report and graphics:

<https://eanvt.org/2024-annual-report/>

Contact:

Customer Support, Efficiency Vermont – [<info@efficiencyvermont.com>](mailto:info@efficiencyvermont.com) or (888) 921-5990

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