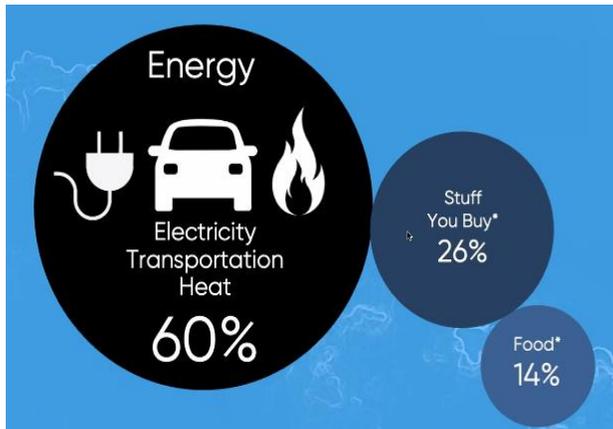


# Climate Change Initiative at Home

Where do US household carbon emissions come from?



**350**  
Pittsburgh

**WHO WE ARE**

A Pittsburgh-based all volunteer nonprofit we:

- Focus on combatting the climate crisis
- Work with an environmental justice ethic
- Are affiliated with 350.org
- Are a project of the Thomas Merton Center

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There is no 'greener' energy than 'avoided' energy

Tackle big insulation improvements when opportunity presents itself

**When the siding is replaced on a home, an additional exterior insulation of 1.5-2" thickness or min. R-value of 7.5 could be added.**

A rare opportunity exists to add exterior insulation when siding is replaced. Doing so has long term consequences as it addresses heat loss through wood framing and increases an overall R-value of the wall assembly to meet modern building code. Typical exterior insulation could be mineral wool Rockboard 80 by Roxul or Polyiso rigid foam board Rmax.

**When the roof of a home with dormers or finished attic is replaced, an additional rigid exterior insulation should be added on top of the roof decking to increase the insulation value of attic slopes.** While the building code requires bringing attic/roof insulation level 'to code' when the roof is replaced, this is rarely performed or enforced.

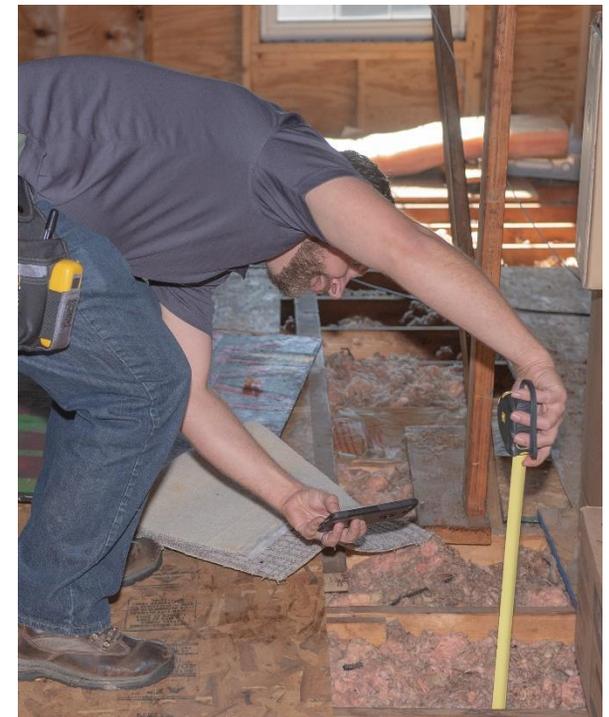
*Hire an Energy Auditor to help you understand the opportunities to save*

<http://www.deawp.org/>

## Air Seal and be Snug

**Air sealing** is like the windbreaker that pairs up with the wool sweater of insulation in your home's protective layers. Without both, you will be wasting energy and be far less comfortable, and that is why it is important to address both. To get air sealing right, hire a contractor to perform a **blower door test** to pinpoint the cracks, voids, and gaps where air leaks into (and out of) your house. Air leakage can account for up to one third of the total conditioned air lost from your home.

Many insulating, air sealing and weatherization tasks can also be performed as DIY. To see science-based recommendations refer to <https://world.350.org/pittsburgh/diy-guidance-and-resources/>



US Households collectively spend over  
**\$500 Billion per year**  
on fossil fuels based energy

We have a lot of spending  
power



Let's think together what we  
can do to kick  
the fossil fuel habit:

Renewable electricity purchase

Solar panels

Electric or plug in car

Electrification of household  
appliances and tools

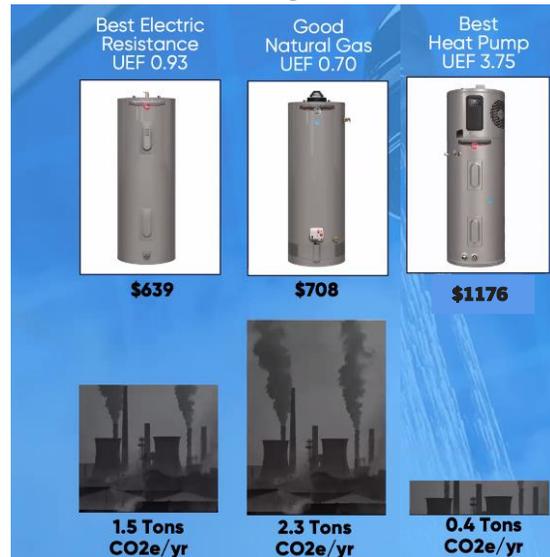
Reduction of energy use through  
home insulation and air sealing

*These choices do not cost more; to the contrary, some save you money in the short term and some in the long run. Think about your choices when replacing appliance or a car >>>you're bound to spend. What will you spend on???*

## Electrify Everything

As more renewable generation is added to the grid, electricity will become a greener energy source than natural gas or oil. You can tap into this greener source by making a few choices now that will likely yield lower carbon emissions over the next 10-15 years.

### Hot Water Heating



Consider **electric tank or electric heat pump hot water heating** when your current hot water heater comes to the end of its life. And if you make any upgrades in the kitchen, the **induction stove**, which cooks food more efficiently, is an excellent option. It is also a healthier choice as it avoids indoor air pollution associated with burning gas. **Induction stoves** cook food more quickly, adjust better to temperature changes, and take no time at all to cool down.

**Heat Pump** technology surpasses any other commonly used water heating sources (except for solar hot water), as the heat pump does not generate heat, but instead moves the heat from the surrounding space to the water in its tank. The technology is well established and used already for years. It is best suited for homes with basements or larger spaces from which the heat can be drawn. Very low operating cost is a bonus; heat pumps will pay for themselves in savings on utility bills.

Select an **electric lawn mower** or an **electric grill** next time you need to upgrade. **Heat pump clothes dryers** have also entered the market and have an excellent efficiency beating all other clothes dryers, except the clothesline!

## Select Most Efficient

Did you know that Energy Star now offers a much better differentiation regarding efficiency performance of various building products and appliances with their “**Most Efficient**” brand? See more at <https://www.energystar.gov/products/most-efficient>

Our individual choices matter more than we think: we influence our family and neighbors and signal that we are ready to take action on climate. We catalyze change!