

Energy Renovations

If you are looking to really invest your time and money into living a more eco-friendly life and reducing your carbon footprint there are some major renovations you can take that would greatly reduce your use of energy.

HOME ENERGY AUDIT

Energy.gov says home energy audits, also known as home energy assessments, can help you understand how much energy your home uses, where your home is losing energy and which problem areas or fixes you should prioritize to make your home more efficient. A home audit should be your first step before adding a renewable energy system to your home.

A professional home energy audit will provide a room-by-room assessment of your home using professional equipment.

If you do not want to invest in a professional home audit, you can give a self-assessment by closely paying attention to pinpoint problems and researching how to find them yourselves.



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SOLAR PANELS

Solar panels are an investment that comes with benefits for the ecosystem and for your wallet. Energy.gov says purchasing a rooftop solar system for your home can help you get federal tax credits and other state, local or utility incentives. If you can't afford solar panel installation, you still may have a few options. According to

Energy.gov, there are numerous businesses that make solar easier, cheaper and accessible for all. Options such as community or shared solar programs, solar leases and power agreements have allowed millions of households to take advantage of solar energy.

COOL ROOF

A cool roof is another

you energy and money by using your air conditioning less.

Cool roofs use highly reflective paints, tiles or shingles to reflect light from the sun. Cool roofs can be made with white or darker colored materials.

Almost any home can be fitted with a cool roof. Consider the climate you live in and other factors before you decide to install.

Talk to an expert if you are interested in covering your existing roof or if you are constructing a house you would like to install cool roofs onto.

SMART METERS

Smart meters allow you to monitor your energy usage in almost real time. Energy.gov says smart meters provide two-way communication between you and your utility, which can help your utility locate and respond to outages more quickly.

Smart meters help maintain more reliable communication and electrical service and allow consumers to more easily take advantage of time-based electricity rates, according to Energy.gov.

Smart meters can also be used with energy management systems to network and operate smart appliances.

Visit Energy.gov to find out more information about EMS, grids and meters.

investment that can help reduce your carbon footprint and help you save money. Energy.gov says a cool roof reflects sunlight and efficiently emits heat. Standard roofs can reach temperatures of up to 150 degrees or more during the summer months.

A cool roof can lower the temperature of your home up to 50 degrees and can save



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REAL ESTATE 101



Types of Energy Audits

When it comes to conducting a home energy audit, you can either do it yourself or hire a pro. A professional audit will provide more detailed information. Visit the Department of Energy's website at www.bit.ly/35ZFIAG to read more about each option and decide which one is right for your situation.

HOMEWISSE GLOSSARY

Liquidity: a measure of the ability and ease with which you can access and use your money.

SOURCE: Consumer Financial Protection Bureau

AD SPACE