



GrowSmart Maine

Keeping Maine...*Maine*

**Building lasting prosperity without sacrificing
the quality of life that defines Maine.**

Energy Efficiency Community Campaign

**Feel more comfortable now,
reduce home energy use,
and save money long term!**

We team up with community members to increase weatherization and energy efficiency. We begin with an informational workshop describing benefits and sharing resources. For interested communities, we take a deeper dive and coordinate resource partners with local people to reduce home energy use for least 25 households.

This program is made possible through support and collaboration with Island Institute, Onion Foundation and Horizon Foundation and builds on the Bridging the Rural Efficiency Gap report created by Island Institute and partner organizations.

Weatherization & Heat Pumps

What is weatherization?

- Weatherization is making your home more weather-proof. Weatherization includes insulating walls and sealing air leaks.

What can weatherization do for you?

- Stay warm in the winter and cool in the summer - weatherization keeps the outside air out and the inside air in so you are more comfortable inside.
- Save money- It is easier to heat and cool a weatherized home. You can save money on heating bills and electricity for air conditioning.

What can you do to weatherize your home?

- Get an energy audit - Efficiency Maine provides rebates to help you save money on an energy audit and you may even qualify for a free energy



audit from your local Community Action Corp. An energy audit will show what your home needs for weatherization. It's the first step to having professional weatherization done.

Heat Pumps

- Heat pumps provide very efficient heating and air conditioning to your home. They use less energy than conventional air conditioners and heaters. Efficiency Maine is currently offering a rebate program so you can save money on the costs of purchase and installation.
- Go to <https://www.energymaine.com/at-home/ductless-heat-pumps/>

DIY Projects

No need to wait for professional weatherization. You can do these on your own or through the Energy Efficiency Community Campaign

Window Insulation

This easy project requires only a roll of bubble wrap and more than pays for the cost of the bubble wrap in less than a year!

1. When it starts to get cold in the fall, identify windows in your home that you don't need to see out of. Windows in basements or any room you don't often use are perfect for this project.
2. Tape up a sheet of bubble wrap so that it covers the full glass surface of the window. If you don't have a big enough sheet of bubble wrap it's okay to tape a couple together.
3. Bubble wrap lets sunlight in through the window so it will still warm and brighten your home, but less heat escapes through the glass pane so you burn less energy heating.
4. In the spring when it starts to get warm again you can roll up the bubble wrap and save it for next winter.

Replace Light Bulbs

Replacing the lightbulbs in your house with LED bulbs is one of the most effective ways to save energy. LED bulbs last much longer than regular bulbs so you can also save on buying lightbulb replacements.

1. Pick out the lights in your house that you use the most and check what size bulbs you need to replace them. The more lights you replace the better but start with the most often used ones.
2. Use Efficiency Maine's tool at <https://www.energymaine.com/at-home/retail-lighting-program/find-a-participating-retailer/> to find discounted LED bulbs near you.
3. Buy replacements for the bulbs you selected in step 1. Make sure to get the equivalent wattage and choose the right "warmth" for your bulbs.
4. Install your new lightbulbs and enjoy your electricity savings!

Other Resources

Statewide Contacts::

- **Efficiency Maine** – Providing rebates and loans for energy upgrades to your home, including weatherization and heat pumps
Phone: 866-376-2463
Email: info@efficiencymaine.com
- **Find your Community Action Agency** – Can provide heating assistance or weatherization at no cost for eligible clients
Phone: Maine Housing: (800) 452-4668
www.mainehousing.org/charts/maine-community-action-agency-contacts
- **GrowSmart Maine** – Providing education and resources to access weatherization and other energy efficiency measures.
Email: info@growsmartmaine.org

What is Smart Growth?

Smart growth provides choices in how communities respond to growth and change.

We work to revitalize historic neighborhoods and vibrant communities suited for residents of all ages, to foster entrepreneurs and creative thinkers, and to provide a safe and inclusive place to raise children.

We advocate for a balance of business regulations in tandem with environmental regulations, allowing Maine's economy to grow and prosper while conserving and enriching our beautiful and productive natural spaces.

We support the continuation of traditional livelihoods like fishing, farming and forestry; keeping Maine families working their heritage and making it possible for their children to do the same.

We provide leadership by convening a broad range of voices in meaningful conversations on how to arrive at common-sense solutions as united Mainers.