



# Tools, Incentives & Programs to \$ave & Go Green at Home

Lisa Orr

Unity with Nature Committee Goose Creek Friends Meeting



# Which spilled more fuel in 1989?

- A. The Exxon Valdez
- B. Gardeners refilling lawn equipment
- C. Drivers pumping gas



# Which spilled more fuel in 1989?

A. Exxon Valdez (~11 million gallons)

**B. Gardeners refilling lawn equipment** (~17 million gallons; 26 Olympic pools)

C. Drivers pumping gas

(~5 million gallons)

Which household appliance requires the most electricity to generate heat?

- A. Electric cooking range
- **B. Water heater**
- **C. Clothes dryer**



Which household appliance requires the most electricity to generate heat?

A. Electric cooking range

- **B.** Water heater
- **C. Clothes dryer**

Which way should I chill out while using the least amount of energy?

- A. Relax in my outdoor hot tub
- B. Soak in my whirlpool bath
- C. Hang out in my massage chair
- D. Curl up in my electric blanket



# Which way should I chill out while using the least amount of energy?

- A. Relax in my outdoor hot tub
- **B. Soak in my whirlpool bath**
- C. Hang out in my massage chair
  - D. Curl up in my electric blanket



# What is the USA's biggest source of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions?

- A. Cars
- **B. Coal-burning power plants**
- C. Exhalation of 319 million people



# What is the USA's biggest source of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions?

A. Cars

**B.** Coal-burning power plants

**C. Exhalation of 319 million people** 



# What percentage of seabirds have plastic in their stomachs?

A. 90%
B. 50%
C. 25%



# What percentage of seabirds have plastic in their stomachs?

...and projected to rise to 99% by 2050





## Do more air pollutants come from burning 1 gallon of gasoline in a...

- A. Lawnmower
- **B.** Conventional car, or
- C. Fire truck



# Do more air pollutants come from burning 1 gallon of gasoline in a...

A. LawnmowerB. Conventional carC. Fire truck



For every gallon of gasoline a conventional car burns, how many party balloons of carbon emissions are emitted into the atmosphere?

A. 1,172
B. 172
C. 72
D. 7



For every gallon of gasoline a conventional car burns, how many party balloons of carbon emissions are emitted into the atmosphere?





# Which uses less water? Washing dishes...

A. By hand, orB. In the dishwasher





# Which uses less water? Washing dishes...

A. By hand, orB. In the dishwasher







## Not this...







- Direct energy use by U.S. households (home & transport) accounted for approximately 38% of overall US CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, or
- 626 million metric tons of carbon (MtC) in 2005, or
- approximately 8% of global emissions and larger than the emissions of any entire country except China!

Source: <u>Household actions can provide a behavioral wedge to rapidly reduce US carbon</u> <u>emissions</u>



## **U.S. Energy Generation**, Use, & Wastage



AND WASTES UP TO 68% of Energy Generated

**35% of** Residential Energy is Wasted



Sources: World Economic Forum (2018); Assoc Press (2008)

## Why So Much Wasted through Generation?



The energy we do use is precious!

The

Point?

Source: EnergyDynamics



### Where does our Electricity come from?

Oil (0.4%)

**Natural Gas** (14%)

**Nuclear (35%)** 

#### **Utility Generated Electricity ~2008**



**Renewable:** Wind, Hydroelectric, Solid Waste, **Captured Methane Gas, Wood and Other** Biomass, Solar (3%)

**Coal (48%)** 



#### Where does our Electricity come from?



**Utility Generated Electricity 2021** 

Source: USEIA



"The most significant increase in emissions last year came from homes and buildings, which burn fossil fuels like natural gas in furnaces, hot water heaters and other appliances. Those emissions rose 6 percent, and reached prepandemic levels."

## U.S. Carbon Emissions Grew in 2022, Even as Renewables Surpassed Coal

Jan. 10, 2023

The New York Times

Emissions ticked up 1.3 percent last year as they continued to rebound from early pandemic lows.

#### Renewable energy generation surpassed coal



#### Source: Rhodium Group: Preliminary Greenhouse Gas Emissions Estimate for 2022



### How do American households use energy?





## **Two SHORT LISTS can Guide Us!**

**The Short List**: The Most Effective Actions U.S. Households Can Take to Curb Climate Change (Gardner & Stern, <u>Source</u>)

--Rankings based on percentage of potential household energy savings

Household actions can provide a behavioral wedge to rapidly reduce US carbon emissions (Deitz, Gardner, et al, <u>Source</u>)

--Rankings based on achievable emissions reductions

#### Total Possible Energy Savings from Effective Energy Conservation and Efficiency Actions: 69%

Potential Energy Saved by FREE or very	
Low-Cost Household Actions	Up to
Heat: turn down thermostat from 72 to 68 degrees	
during day; and to 65 degrees during night	2.8%
Change washer temperature settings from hot wash,	
warm rinse; to warm wash, cold rinse	1.2%
Line dry clothing 7 months out of year	1.1%
Turn down water heater from 140 degrees to 120 degrees F.	0.7%
Cooling: Turn up thermostat from 73 degrees to 78	0.6%
Watch 25% fewer hours of TV each day	0.6%
Don't leave 1 60 Watt incandescent bulb on all night	0.5%
Turn up refrigerator from 33 to 38 degrees: Turn up	
freezer thermostat from -5 to 0 degrees F.	0.5%
Replace 2 100 Watt bulbs with 75 Watt Bulbs	0.3%
Total possible No Cost Home Energy Savings	8.3%
Potential Energy Saved by FREE	
Transportation Actions	Up to
Carpool with 1 person	4.2%
Alter Driving: Avoid sudden acceleration & stops	3.2%
Combine errand trips to 1/2 of current mileage	2.7%
Cut highway speed from 70 to 60 mph	2.4%
Maintain correct tire pressure	1.2%
Total Possible No Cost Transportation Energy Savings	13.7%
Total Possible No/Low Cost Energy Savings	24.8%

Potential Energy Savings by <mark>Investing</mark> in	
Greater Efficiency	Up to
Upgrade Attic Insulation and ventilation	7.0%
nstall more efficient heating and A/C units	5.1%
Replace 85% of all incandescent light bulbs with equally bright CFLs	4.0%
Replace poor windows with high efficiency windows	3.7%
Caulk & weatherstrip home	2.5%
Replace pre-2001 refrigerators with new Energy Star unit	1.9%
nstall more efficient water heater (EFS .7 unit)	1.5%
Replace 48" Plasma HD TV with a 52" Projection HD TV	
(LDC)	1.3%
Replace pre-2001 clothes washer with new Energy Star unit	1.1%
Total Potential Home Savings with Financial	
nvestment	28.1%
Potential Transportation Savings by Investing	
in Greater Efficiency	Up to
Buy Fuel Efficient Vehicle getting 30+ mpg	13.5%
Get Frequent Tune-Ups and air filter changes	3.9%
Buy low-rolling resistance tires	1.5%
Total Potential Transportation Savings with Financial	
nvestment	<b>18.9</b> %
Total Possible Household Energy Savings with	
Investment in Energy Efficiency	47.0%

(Modified from Gardner & Stern, 2008 Source)

#### Note: 2008 Research



### "Short List" Ranked by Climate Impact

DAED as parceptage of

The same things that are best for your wallet are best for the climate.

(Simplified from Deitz, Gardner, et al, <u>Source</u>)

		KALK as percentage of
Nove	Reasonable Achievable US	total US
	<b>Emissions Reductions within</b>	individual/household
Action or Behavior Change	10 years (RAER)(MtC)	sector emissions (%I/H)
Totals	123 MtC	20%
Fuel-efficient vehicle	31.4	5.02
Weatherization	21.2	3.39
Appliances	11.7	1.87
HVAC equipment	10.7	1.72
Driving behavior	7.7	1.23
Low rolling resistance tires	6.5	1.05
Carpooling and trip-chaining	6.4	1.02
Efficient water heater	5.4	0.86
Thermostat setbacks	4.5	0.71
Routine auto maintenance	4.1	0.66
Change HVAC air filters	3.7	0.59
Standby electricity	3.2	0.52
Line drying clothes	2.2	0.35
Tune up AC	1.4	0.22
Low-flow showerheads	1.1	0.18
Water heater temperature	1	0.17
Laundry temperature	0.2	0.04



## What We'll Cover

- Weatherization & Home Energy Audits
- Incentives & Tax Credits
- Heating and Cooling Equipment
- Appliances
- Electronics
- Example of Impacts
- Going Green with the Frederick County Green Homes Challenge

Issues description How to Address; What to do Special Programs, Incentives & Rebates





## **Our Homes Leak Money Every Day!**





## Where?





## **Major Sources of Air Leaks**

19 Common Walls Between Attached Dweiling Units



<u>Source</u>



# **Major Sources of Air Leaks**





## **Dominion Audits** (with rebates)

#### Virtual Energy Audit, Quick Energy Check-Up



- Skip these
- Not comprehensive; do if you want a few devices;
   Opportunity for Cost Estimate without you getting a clear picture of what is really needed

### • Full Energy Audit

- Must use Dominion approved auditing contractor (<u>LISTING</u>)
- 2-4 Hour deep assessment with diagnostic tools
- Blower Door Test; Thermal Imaging
- Installation of simple measures (pipe insulation, shower heads, etc.)
- Eligibility for <u>REBATES</u> on energy saving retrofits (\$1.50 \$273)
  - Rebate to Customer or Contractor
- Comprehensive Report with Recommendations (<u>SAMPLE</u>)



## **Audit Precautions**

#### • Getting Started:

- Call a few contractors from the approved list (or call Dominion at 888-366-8280 & let them refer you to an approved contractor)
- Check out their reviews online (Yelp, Google, Facebook, etc.)
- Find out what contractors charge <u>for the audit itself</u>; don't let them be vague
  - It should be in the range of \$400 for a 3,000 sq. ft. home
- Ask if you will receive the Full Audit Report. You should!
  - Some may say that is proprietary and give you an estimate of what work should be done instead.
- Ask if they also provide retrofit services, and if that will be estimated separately from the audit. You may or may not want to use the same company for the audit & retrofits.



### **Potential Energy Saving Recommendations**

- Air sealing (doors, windows, plumbing/vent pipes, ceiling light fixtures)
- Attic, wall, basement, and crawl space insulation
- Duct Sealing (Aeroseal)
- Duct insulation on heat pump system or central AC
- Heat pump water heater
- HVAC ductless unit upgrades
- Tune-up on heat pump or central AC
- Heat pump or mini split upgrade
- Smart thermostat installation
- High-efficiency fan motors
- Smart Home Energy Management System
- WANT Dominion Rebates (<u>LIST</u>)?
- Use their APPROVED CONTRACTORS







## **Rebates & Incentives**





INFLATION
REDUCTIO
ACT

- Energy Star Appliance/HVAC Rebate Finder
  - Includes Dominion rebates (most are \$50)
- Dominion Energy Incentives
  - Lighting, Air Sealing, Water Heaters, HVAC, Tune-Ups & More (\$2 - \$400)
- No Potomac Energy Incentives in WV
- Inflation Reduction Act Federal Tax Credits:
  - More than Dominion Rebates/Incentives
  - How will "double-dipping" be handled? Don't know!
- <u>DSIRE</u>: Database of US & State Policies & Incentives for Renewables & Efficiency
  - 32 US Policies and Incentives; 8 in WV; 44 in VA;



## Inflation Reduction Act New Federal Tax Credits!

- Up to a total of \$3,200/year! A few examples...
- Audits: \$150
- Insulation: 30% of project cost up to \$1,200
- Central A/C & Gas Furnaces: 30% of project cost up to \$600
- Geothermal Heat Pumps: ~ 30% of cost
- Gas Tank & Tankless Water Heaters: 30% of project cost up to \$600
- Air-Source Heat Pump & Heat Pump Water Heater: 30% of project cost up to \$2,000
- Windows & Skylights: 30% of project cost up to \$600
- Doors: 30% of project cost up to \$500



# Heating & Cooling

 Electrify everything – We are on path to zero-carbon electricity



- Fossil fuels' emissions are fixed; electric generation is getting cleaner and cleaner
- Electric Heat Pumps are more efficient and much less expensive to operate than furnaces or boilers using gas or oil

#### **Use a Professional**

- Upgrades to heating and cooling equipment should consider the effect on all areas of the house to maximize energy savings and ensure health and safety.
- Systems need to be properly sized for your house and installed to deliver its full capacity.
- Replace if...
  - Heat pump more than 10 years old
  - Furnace or Boiler more than 15 years old



## **Heating & Cooling Options**







- Smart Thermostats; Programmable Thermostats
  - Smart Run ~\$275; Programmable are less
- Ductless (and ducted) Mini-Splits
  - Good for homes without ducts
  - Good for households using window AC units
- Geothermal Heating & Cooling (a whole other workshop!)
  - **EPA-Certified Wood and pellet-fuel stoves:** 
    - Visit <u>epa.gov/burnwise</u> for options.
- Good Overviews Here!

**DOE ENERGY SAVERS GUIDE** 



## **Heating & Cooling Behaviors**

- Clean or replace filters on furnaces once a month or as recommended.
- Save as much as 10% per year by turning your thermostat down 7°–10°F for 8 hours a day in fall/winter; turn it up in spring/summer.
  - (If you have a heat pump, don't do this without a smart or programmable thermostat designed for use with heat pumps.)
- Clean around registers and baseboard heaters
- Place heat-resistant radiator reflectors between exterior walls and the radiators.
- Open draperies and shades on your south-facing windows during the day to allow the sunlight to enter your home. Close them at night to reduce the chill from cold windows.
- See Actions in Green Homes Challenge (more later)



## **Water Heaters**



Heat Pump Water Heater



Tankless Water Heater

• Research & choose the best solution for you now! Be ready when you urgently need a new one!

#### Heat Pump Water Heaters – right for you?

- Heat pump water heaters use 70% less electricity to make the same hot water as a standard electric model.
- Heat pump on top draws heat from surrounding air to "pre-heat" tank water
- In your basement, they can also dehumidify
- They do make noise, so consider location

#### Tankless Water Heaters – right for you?

- Hot water on-demand
- Use less space, but more complicated plumbing
- Higher install cost
- May need more than 1 for more simultaneous uses



## Water Heaters – Pros/Cons

#### PROS

Heat Pump WH	Tankless WH	Standard Tank (Gas or Elec)
10-15 year lifespan	>20 year lifespan	Lower cost (~\$500)
Rebates & Fast ROI (4 yr)	Uses less space	Simpler plumbing; More simultaneous uses
Uses ambient air; operating cost ~27% less	Lower operating costs – up to 14-34% less (occupant #)	Higher operating costs
Tax Credits & Rebates	Tax Credits	Tax Credtos
CONS		
More costly (~\$1000- 3,000)	Higher cost (\$500-2000 + Install (\$500-1500)	Shortest lifespan (10-12 yr.)
More space (100 sq ft)	More complicated plumbing -	Standby heat loss
Makes noise	May need more than 1; 2 simultaneous uses	More expensive to operate

#### Multiple Sources (here's one)



## **Appliances**

#### • Are older ones better than new ones?

- Older: Built to last and do last longer; repairable; purchase of used/refurbished appliances conserves resources and is less expensive
- Newer: More energy and water efficient; smarter features; rebates available; more expensive to buy, less expensive to operate; Don't last as long



### If replacing with new, choose Energy Star

- Save on utility bills, save energy, conserve natural resources
- Appliance Use Calculators
  - Electric Appliances
  - Gas Appliances



## **Appliance Cost/Savings Comparisons**

#### **Some New Appliances Save More than others**

Appliance	Expense per Year (20 Yrs Old)	Expense per Year (New)	Cost of New	Savings over 10 Years
Fridge	\$368	\$158	\$800- 2,000+	\$2,100
Oven	\$182	\$79	\$500+	\$1,030
Freezer	\$398	\$157	\$400+	\$410
Dishwasher	\$92	\$68	\$400-550+	\$56
Clothes Washer	\$82	\$46	\$600+	\$560
<b>Clothes Dryer</b>	\$132	\$79	\$700-900+	\$560

Source (modified)



# **Appliance Incentives**

- Energy Star Appliance Rebate Finder: (most \$50) https://www.energystar.gov/rebate-finder
  - Fridges/Freezers: \$50
    - Dishwasher: \$50
    - Clothes Dryer: \$100
  - Clothes Washer: \$50

#### Fridge & Freezer Recycling:

- <u>Dominion Pick-up with \$20 Rebate (10+ yr. old</u> and working)
- Energy Star replacements can save you ~\$150/yr.





### Tax-Free Weekends to Buy Energy Star Appliances & WaterSense Products







### **Maryland: Presidents Day Weekend**

- 5.3 sales tax waived on Energy Star Appliances less than \$2,500
  - AC units, Heat Pumps, Boilers, Washers, Dryers, Fridges, Light Bulbs, Programmable Thermostats, and more!

### Virginia: First Friday –> Sunday in August

- 6% sales tax waived for Energy Star & WaterSense
  - AC units, Washers, Dryers, Fridges, Dishwashers, Dehumidifiers, Ceiling Fans
  - Toilets, Faucets, Shower Heads, Irrigation Controllers, Light Bulbs, Ceiling Fans, Dehumidfiers
  - Reduced water use saves electricity too!

#### VA Details





# **Appliances – Basic Tips**

- Electrify everything We are on path to zero-carbon electricity
  - Gas ranges are responsible for more than 10 percent of childhood asthma cases in the United States.
- Don't keep that old fridge in the garage for beer!
- Replace Gas Ranges with Electric or Induction Cooktops
  - Induction cooktops need magnetic pots; Pros & Cons
- Wash 90% of laundry in cold water
- Turn water heater down from 140 degrees to 120
- Look for WaterSense label when purchasing toilets, faucets, showerheads, irrigation systems



## **Electronics**



#### FrederickGreenChallenge.org

The average desktop PC wastes half of the energy it consumes and 75% of energy consumption occurs when no one is in front of it!



Set up Power Management on desktop computers and laptops



S S S Use a smart power strip

Read more Comments





Unplug power adapters and small electronics/appliances when not in use

Comments

Read more



KREE

Turn off computer peripherals when not in use

Read more Comments



Se programmable timers

\*\*\*\*\*

Read more

ore Comments







## **Does It Work?**

#### Our 1850's Home 2005-2008 Example (pre-solar)

- Conducted Energy Audit with blower door test
- \$\$ Sealed and insulated attic, basement, light and outlet fixtures
- \$\$ Sealed rim joist in basement (where walls meet foundation)
- Sealed around doors and old chimneys
- Insulated water heater in unheated basement
- Insulated all the hot water pipes in unheated basement
- \$\$ Replaced refrigerator & dishwasher with Energy Star models
- Set thermostat on hot water heater to 120 degrees
- Installed low-flow showerheads and dual flush adaptor
- Replaced all lightbulbs to CFLs/LEDs
- Used electric mower (some of the time)
- Wash everything in cold water; Line dry most laundry
- Shut off computer, printer and all electronics each night



## **Does It Work?**

#### Our 1850's Home 2005-2008 Example (pre-solar)

-2006

2007

2008





## **More Resources**

#### Contents

### • DOE ENERGY SAVERS GUIDE: Tips on Saving Money and Energy in Your Home (July 2022)

- Department of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy
- 56 pages
- Great coverage on all topics
- Easy to Read

1	Save Money and Energy Today
2	Assess Your Home's Energy Use Professional Energy Audits, DIY Energy Audits, Your Whole-House Plan
6	Weatherize Your Home Air Sealing, Insulation, Energy Efficient New Construction and Additions
12	Heat and Cool Your Home Efficiently Smart and Programmable Thermostats, Air Ducts, Buying Heating and Cooling Systems, Home Heating, Heat Pumps, Home Cooling, Water Heating
21	Design Your Home for Efficiency Landscaping, Windows, Passive Solar Home Design, Cool Roofs
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#### 48 References and Resources





#### **A Tool for a Greener Lifestyle**

## **The Green Homes Challenge**

Challenge 1: Be a Power Saver Save Our Energy, Bank Your Money! Helps residents reduce energy consumption and utility bills





#### **Challenge 2:** Be a Green Leader

Green Your Lifestyle, Protect Our Resources! Helps residents adopt environmentallyfriendly practices

#### **Challenge 3:** Be a Renewable Star

Renew Your Energy, Clear Our Air! Helps residents use renewable energy











Air conditioning and heating can account for half of a household's energy consumption. Changing your heating, ventilating, and air conditioning (HVAC) system filters regularly will allow the systems to operate efficiently, and will keep the indoor air clean. Use <u>HEPA (High</u> <u>Efficiency Particulate Air) filters</u> on your HVAC system so that you have maximum filtration in your home.

The frequency recommended for filter changes can vary depending on your household environment. Most homes should have a filter change every 90 days, but more frequent changes may be needed for homes with pets or during peak seasonal usage. A monthly visual check is enough to see if the filter is dirty and needs replacement. Learn more about changing your filter from the Service Experts guide or Energy Star® guide.

#### Collapse





MY PROGRESS				
	The Co House	ottinghan hold	n-Orr	
POWER SAVER			certified (124)	
50				
GREEN LEADE	R		certified (219)	
50				
RENEWABLE S	TAR		certified (44)	
10				
ESTIMATED ANNUAL SAVINGS				
<b>5</b> 6	19,147	134,436	805	







#### **Municipal Team Listings**



3. Urbana 68 members, 2,104 actions, 929 tons CO<sub>2</sub> averted, \$95,951 dollar savings



4. Thurmont 61 members, 2,148 actions, 704 tons CO<sub>2</sub> averted, \$73,057 dollar savings



5. Middletown 42 members, 1,897 actions, 759 tons CO<sub>2</sub> averted, \$72,876 dollar savings



6. Walkersville 40 members, 1,285 actions, 485 tons CO<sub>2</sub> averted, \$50,161 dollar savings



### **Green Team Action & Impact Details**

#### **Municipal Team Details**

MIDDLETOWN	
Members	47 participants 🛛 🔻
Actions taken	2018 🔻
Total tons of CO <sub>2</sub> averted	829 tons 💎
Estimated expenses avoided	\$79,033 🗸 🗸
Total kilowatt-hours of electricity saved	511,679 kilowatt-hours 🔍 💙
Ranking	5 out of 36 🔺



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### **Green Team Participant Details**



certified (100) certified (57)







certified (99)

# Tools, Incentives & Programs to \$ave & Go Green at Home



## **Questions & Discussion**

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