



community development partnership

Creating opportunities for people to live, work, and thrive on the Lower Cape

Energy Saving Tips

During these colder winter months we thought it would be useful to provide some tips for you to make your home or business more energy efficient. And we didn't have to look far for some expert advice. Our own Director of Housing & Energy Efficiency Programs, Abigail Chapman, shared the following information:

If you're on the Cape, you want to start by calling the [Cape Light Compact](#) or visiting their [website](#). It's the easiest, cheapest and most effective way to get started. Their vendor will perform a FREE energy audit on your home or business. Based on what they find, they will give you a proposal with suggestions of things you can do to make your home or business more energy efficient, including what it will cost. And if there are rebates or other incentives available, they'll note that too.

Here are some of the areas of your home that will be focused on during an energy audit:



- 1) The "Building Envelope" – These are the parts of the house that separate you from the great outdoors. During an energy audit, a blower test will be done to determine where air might be leaking out of the house. Such a test will inform whether you need more insulation, any air sealing, and upgraded doors and/or windows.
- 2) Basement Mechanics - An energy audit will inform what level of efficiency your furnace or boiler is working at. If it's under 78% efficiency, it may be worth looking into a new one. There are now systems that work at 95% efficiency.
- 3) Around the House – The efficiency of your refrigerator will be tested, along with a recommendation for whether it's more cost effective to buy a new one. There will be an opportunity for all your light bulbs to be replaced (at no charge) with more energy efficient ones. And free low flow shower heads and faucet aerators

And then there's solar. We won't get into too much detail here, but the two types of solar to think about are Solar Photovoltaic (PV) and Solar Thermal. Solar PV produces electricity and

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Solar Thermal produces hot water. We talked to some local solar experts— Eric Saftler, Regional Sales Executive of Blue Selenium and Jason Stoots, President and founder of E2 Solar--during a recent edition of our weekly radio/television show, *This Place Matters*. Follow the links below to listen or watch.

Lower Cape TV - <https://vimeo.com/154749359>

WOMR - <http://womr.org/podcast/jason-stoots-and-eric-saftler-on-solar-energy/>

And check out this website - <http://www.masssolarloan.com/> - for information about fixed-term, low-interest loans, and 0% interest loans, as well as loan support for income qualified solar owners.

Here are a couple of extra tips to leave you with:

Local libraries lend Home Energy Detective Kits to test your appliances. It may be worth checking one out next time you're stocking up on some reading material, to see where your appliances stack up.

Check out this website--

<https://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?fuseaction=refrig.calculator>. You can enter the model # of your appliances to determine their efficiency and whether it is cost effective to replace.

And here are two other pages with gobs of useful information:

MA Clean Energy - <http://www.masscec.com/>

Energy Star - <https://www.energystar.gov/campaign/home>