

GREENING

New York City Neighborhoods

A menu of ideas, actions and resources to assist neighborhood associations in greening their communities.



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More and more, NYC block, community, civic and neighborhood associations are engaging in activities to combat global warming and make their neighborhoods more environmentally sustainable. This menu of activities can help residents, property owners and business-owners answer the question, 'What can I do?'

All residents can:

- *Change all incandescent light bulbs to ENERGY STAR® compact fluorescent lightbulbs (CFLs)* which use 75% less energy, last up to ten times longer and produce much less heat. Learn more about CFLs on [Energy Star's webpage](#).
- *Switch your electricity supplier to a renewable energy source such as wind and run-of-the river hydroelectric power without interrupting your service.* Green power costs one penny per kilowatt-hour more but you eliminate the sales tax on the delivery portion of your bill. The average residential customer will pay about \$3.50 more per month for every \$50 you are normally billed while helping to develop the market for green power. Changing to renewable reduces your carbon dioxide emissions equivalent to not driving 5,325 miles. Visit the [Public Service Commission](#) website to find out more information about green power in NY or to locate a service provider in your area.
- *Save energy by unplugging appliances when not in use.* For convenience, use a power strip (also known as a surge protector) with your existing electronic devices enabling you to turn them off with a switch.

Homeowners

(1-4 unit buildings) can:

- *Replace light bulbs and appliances with ENERGY STAR® products* and change your electric account to use environmentally friendly energy alternatives (see box to left).
- *Undertake an energy audit and take advantage of incentives to make your home more energy efficient.* NYSERDA's Home Performance with ENERGY STAR® Program provides Building Performance Institute (BPI) accredited Home Performance contractors that will assess your home, make recommendations for energy improvements and provide a cost estimate to do the improvements. You can lower the cost of heating and cooling your home by making improvements such as: adding insulation, air sealing, and adjusting heating and hot water systems. Incentives or low interest financing can help make the energy efficient work more affordable while the improvements will reduce your home electric and heating bills. NYSERDA will pay as much as 50% of costs for income eligible homeowners, learn more on [NYSERDA's website](#).



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Tenants can:

- **Replace light bulbs and appliances with ENERGY STAR® CFL light bulbs** and change your electric account to use environmentally friendly energy alternatives (see previous page).
- **Take advantage of NYSERDA's EmPower New YorkSM program.** If you live in a building with 100 units or less and have a household income below 60% of state median income or participate in a utility payment assistance program, EmPower New YorkSM can provide electricity reduction such as lighting and refrigerator replacements at no cost to the customer. For more information contact Honeywell International at 1-800-263-0960.

Retailers can:

- **Stock and sell ENERGY STAR® light bulbs** and other appliances with the Energy Star® label.
- **Become NYSERDA Energy Smart Products Partners** and receive benefits for participation. To become a partner or for find out more information call: 1-877-NY-STAR1 (877-697-8271)
- **Replace street holiday lights with light-emitting diode (LED) lights.** NYSERDA will provide education on this option. Contact: Wendy Fleischer, Energy Smart Coordinator, wfleisch@pratt.edu.
- **Reduce the use of plastic bags.** Sell cloth bags and provide incentives to consumers to use them. In addition, retailers can support the recycling of plastic bags by providing an easily accessible collection bin for them.
- **Promote biking, a healthy, alternative mode of transportation,** by contacting the [NYC Department of Transportation](#) and requesting the installation of CityRacks, free sidewalk bicycle parking racks.
- Join the [Sustainable Business Network of New York City](#).

Apartment Building Managers (Co-op, Condo and Rental) can:

- **Replace light bulbs, fixtures and appliances with Energy Star products** and switch their source of electric power to wind or other renewable, non-polluting energy sources. For more information on green power, check out www.askpsc.com or call 1-888-275-7721.
- **Take advantage of incentives under NYSERDA's Energy Smart Multi-Family Performance Program.** This program develops a program of energy-saving improvements tailored specifically to each building. Every project in the Multifamily Performance Program is eligible to receive financial assistance through a schedule of Performance Incentives. There are also two optional incentives for which projects may be eligible: #1 New York Energy Smartsm Loan Fund; #2 Special Incentives for Advanced Measures.
- **Train your building managers and maintenance staff to operate your buildings more efficiently.** Check for periodic classes at: the [Association for Energy Affordability](#); [Housing Conservation Coordinators](#); and trade associations.
- **Reduce water use.** Take advantage of a free water audit provided by Honeywell through a contract with the NYC Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to visit any residential customer to look for visual water leaks and provide a current meter reading. They will check for toilet flush volume and water flow. Call Honeywell to arrange an audit: 718-595-7000, and [get more info on how to save water](#).
- **Install a green roof to filter pollutants and heavy metals out of rainwater and reduce storm water run off.** Green roofs are covered by a protective, insulating layer of soils and living plants. To learn more, visit [Earth Pledge, Innovative Environmental Solutions](#).



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Community facilities and commercial and industrial businesses can:

- *Take advantage of [NYSERDA's incentive programs to reduce energy costs](#).* Businesses and other facilities with electric bills less than \$50,000/year are eligible for low cost energy audits that help identify improvements to save electricity. Incentives are also available for gas efficiency improvements of Con Edison gas customers. For companies with large electric loads, the [Peak-Load Reduction Program](#) will offset the costs of energy saving capital improvements by up to 65 percent.

Building contractors and suppliers can:

- *Become a certified building auditor.* Building analyst classes and certification with the Building Performance Institute (BPI), a national accreditation organization, are now 100% reimbursable by NYSERDA in the Con Ed service area. Accreditation from BPI entitles contractors to participate in NYSERDA's *Home Performance with ENERGY STAR® Program* which offers incentives to homeowners and contractors to undertake audits and building retrofits. This certification can help contractors generate more business and improve the quality of home improvements in your neighborhood. Classes are also available for Multi-Family building analysts. For class information, contact the [Association for Energy Affordability](#).
- *Build an ENERGY STAR® Labeled Home (1-4 family) or a Multifamily (New Construction) building* with incentives and technical assistance from NYSERDA.
- *Purchase environmentally responsible products.* [GreenDepot](#) carries a full line: 718-782-2991.
- *Purchase salvaged and surplus materials from [Build it Green! NYC](#)*: 718-777-0132

Schools, educators and students can:

- *Learn how to promote understanding about energy and the environment among students and motivate them to action.* NYSERDA's Energy Education program offers [workshops for teachers](#). Participants receive a free curriculum correlated to the New York State Learning Standards in Math, Science, Technology, Social Studies, English Language Arts, and Family and Consumer Science. The curriculum includes: an Energy Education Teacher's Guide; a CD that includes the Conceptual Framework for Energy Education, basic information on energy and an energy glossary; color posters; and class set of the Energy Action Challenge. For a list of upcoming workshops, visit: www.getenergysmart.org/EnergyEducation/Workshop.aspx
- *Get involved in the [Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment \(BCUE\)](#)* by participating in their in-school and after-school programs, parental involvement and community literacy programs and public events, such as their annual Green Brooklyn symposium, that foster environmental stewardship, community leadership and scholarship through critical exploration of the built and natural environments. 718-788-8500
- *Take advantage of the school workshops, exploration tours and other opportunities at the [Brooklyn Botanic Garden \(BBG\)](#).* 718-623-7200



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Communities can...

CONDUCT COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND PLANNING INITIATIVES

Pledge to Change a Light/Change the World: NYSERDA is seeking pledges from NYS residents to do their part to save energy and environment by taking small steps. Your organization can help by becoming a pledge driver or referring residents to: <http://www.prattcenter.net/tr-energysmart.php>

Map your community's natural, cultural and green living resources at [Green Map](#).

[Pratt Center for Community Development](#) helps New Yorkers plan, build and advocate for a sustainable and equitable city.

RUN 'GREENING' PROJECTS

Plant additional trees to cool your neighborhood's streets. Contact the [NYC Department of Parks & Recreation](#) and/or your local City Council member.

Support green markets in your community to encourage consumption of locally-grown produce.

Support the development of composting facilities in your neighborhood. Learn more about composting in NYC: <http://nyccompost.org/>

Encourage the use of bicycles as an alternate form of transportation. Take action by getting involved with [Transportation Alternatives](#), your advocate for bicycling, walking and public transit.

Contact the [NYC Department of Transportation](#) to install bike racks in neighborhood parks, near mass transit and along shopping avenues.

PROMOTE RECYCLING

Educate residents about [NYC recycling requirements](#).

Find/increase the options for recycling electronic objects, also known as e-waste. Learn more by visiting: [Build it Green NYC](#), [Per Scholas](#), and the [Lower East Side Ecology Center](#).

Become a CFL Collection Center to promote the use of smart, energy saving light bulbs and to provide residents with a convenient outlet for spent lamps. To become a CFL Collection Center or ask additional questions, call: 1-877-NYSTAR1 or email: residential@nyserra.org. Learn more about [recycling CFL light bulbs](#).

Encourage local stores to establish plastic bag recycling programs and promote the use of reusable or canvas bags for shopping. For more information or to purchase a reusable bag, visit www.reusablebags.com; Recycle used plastic bags at [Whole Foods Market](#).



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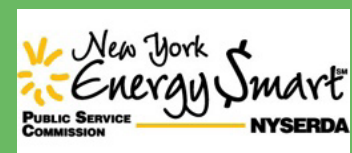
New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) is a public benefit corporation that strives to reduce energy consumption and improve the State's economic and environmental wellbeing through the widespread development and use of innovative technologies. The agency is primarily supported by a small fee charged to all consumers on our utility bills. This fee, called a systems benefits charge, was established in 1996 by the Public Services Commission, which regulates electric companies. More information about NYSERDA's programs can be found on www.getenergysmart.org and www.nyserda.org.



ENERGY STAR is a joint program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy designed to help consumers save money and protect the environment through energy efficient products and practices. Unlike many other products that claim energy efficiency, light bulbs and appliances with the Energy Star label have been rigorously tested both for quality and strict energy efficiency standards. Energy Star products often do not cost more than other products. Look for the Energy Star label on qualifying products:



The New York Energy \$martSM Communities Program creates networks of organizations and agencies that contribute to energy-focused neighborhood projects. The program shares economic, environmental and social benefits through energy efficiency and the diversifying of energy resources.



For more information and assistance please contact:
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