

Retrofitting Your Home

TIPS FOR GETTING STARTED

Home renovation is one of the greatest challenges green building faces, but it represents a wonderful opportunity. The majority of homes require some level of retrofitting to enable more sustainable living.

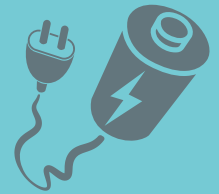
83% of homes in King County were built before 2000 - before major energy codes were updated.

With every home having unique needs, retrofitting is not **one size fits all**, therefore it is important to **develop a tailored approach** and **prioritize which projects should be completed and in what order.**



WHERE TO START

GET AN ENERGY ASSESSMENT. There are do-it-yourself checklists available, but it is best to take advantage of the diagnostic tools professional energy auditors have at their disposal such as infrared thermal scanners, duct blasters, and blower door tests.



LIGHTING

With lighting representing around 10% of consumption, switching to energy efficient bulbs is not only essential, it's a quick, easy, and low-cost place to start!



UPGRADE SKYLIGHTS

Skylights are an excellent source of natural light. However, if single pane, drafty, or otherwise inefficient, your home can lose a lot of warmth as a result.

INSULATION

The quality of home insulation is directly correlated to heating costs. Addressing the condition of your housing envelope is important.



UPGRADE AND/OR WEATHERIZE DOORS AND WINDOWS

Heat can escape through unsealed windows, outlets, ducting, doorways, and more.

SEAL AIR DRAFTS AND LIGHT FIXTURES

Sealing your home is one of the most inexpensive retrofits that can net you great energy savings.

VENTILATION

This speaks to the exchange of stale, indoor air with fresh outside air as well as circulation of air within a space.



SERVICE HVAC SYSTEM

Conducting regular service of your HVAC system, as well as cleaning or replacing filters, can save you money and keep them running at optimal levels.

UPGRADE THE FURNACE

When upgrading, choose an Annual Fuel Utilization Efficiency (AFUE) rating of at least 92%.

MATERIAL USE

Salvaging and reusing materials during your retrofitting project is very effective. When this is not possible, working to incorporate locally produced or sustainable materials is a good alternative.



UTILIZE LOW VOC PAINTS AND FINISHES

Ensure paints, finishes, and other materials do not have formaldehyde or toxins in them, or that they are low in VOCs.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

Equipping your home with renewable energy sources not only will increase your home value, it will save you money on utility bills and can potentially free you from reliance on the electrical grid.



MONITOR PLUG LOAD

Plug Load Monitors are a useful tool which allow you to see how much energy your devices use which can help you determine what should be unplugged when not in use.



THINK GREEN



INSTALL A PROGRAMMABLE THERMOSTAT



DECREASE WATER USAGE



PLANT TREES



UTILIZE LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT



WHAT IS LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT?

LID is a **sustainable stormwater practice** that helps manage runoff as more of the ground surface area is covered by man-made facets.

It works to create **functional** and **appealing site drainage**, and using **storm water as a resource** rather than a waste product.

Here in the Northwest, managing stormwater is of particular importance as polluted stormwater kills salmon as our communities continue to grow.

TIPS FOR MANAGING URBAN RUN OFF:

rain barrels for irrigation
rain gardens
green roofs
permeable pavement

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