

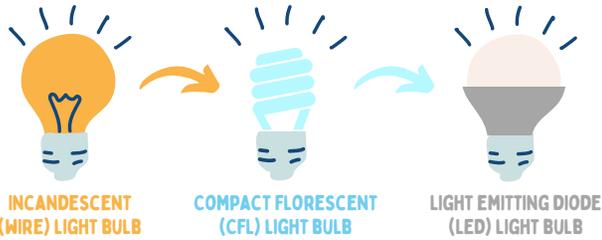
# RESIDENTIAL CLIMATE ACTION CHECKLIST



You can take action every day with small changes at home. Here are some suggestions of how you can make a difference:

## ENERGY SAVINGS:

- Turn off devices such as fans and air conditioners, televisions, or computers when you're not home.
- Replace old, incandescent or compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs with LED bulbs that use less energy, last longer, and do not contain mercury.



- Install a smart, programmable thermostat that will automatically adjust your home's temperature to fit your daily schedule to save energy & money.
- In the **winter**, adjust your thermostat to **68°F** when you are home and set it colder when away.
- In the **summer**, adjust your thermostat to **73°F** when you are home and set it warmer when away.

- Get a **free** energy analysis & upgrades for your home by **Consumer's Energy**.



Scan this link to **schedule your audit**:

- Wash your clothes in the coldest water setting possible and dry on low heat to save energy.
- Turn on your shower when you are ready to get in to reduce water & energy use.
- Make a 7 to 15 minute playlist to keep track of time and take short showers



- Air-dry bulky items like sweaters, jeans, and towels or use your dryer's "no-heat" mode to save energy.
- Try the **Michigan Home Energy Rebates Program (MiHER)** which can help you upgrade your natural gas appliances, or improve your home's insulation, heating, and air conditioning.



Scan this link to **see if you qualify**:

- During the day, use **bright winter sunlight** to warm your house and save energy on indoor lighting.
- Use heavy curtains or window shades to block the **hot summer sunlight** to keep your house cool.



- Cover your window sills and door gaps with fabric draft-stoppers to keep cold or hot conditioned air inside.
- Save energy with heating and cooling by replacing your air filter **every 3-4 months** with a clean one.
- In the summer, avoid charging devices or using appliances during peak energy demand hours (from 2pm to 7pm) to pay a cheaper rate.
- Turn off unnecessary outdoor lights at night.

## SAFE & EFFICIENT HOMES

- Get your house checked for lead if it was built before the year 1978 and especially if young children (ages 0 - 5 years old) live there or visit.
- Check out **Michigan Saves** to finance home renovations for renewable energy projects or energy efficiency upgrades.



- Swap your natural gas appliance for electric, when possible, for better air quality and less fossil fuels.
- Install low-flow shower heads/toilets, and aerators for your sinks, to save water and money.
- Connect a rain barrel to your gutter system to save money on water and slow down the movement of pollution into rivers.



- Do not burn any material besides firewood. Burning yard waste, tires, construction debris, and plastic is very harmful to the environment and illegal.
- Sign up for local air quality text alerts from **JustAir.co** to know the conditions in your area before going outside.



- Create an emergency preparedness plan with your family to keep safe during severe weather.
- Consider flood insurance for your property if you live near a stream, river, or lake. You can visit **FloodSmart.gov** for more information about flood insurance.
- Use a **high efficiency particulate air (HEPA)** filter for high indoor air quality and healthy breathing.



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## HEALTHY FOOD:

- Eat less meat and dairy. You can replace protein from animal products with nuts, beans, seeds, legumes, grains, or other animal meat replacements such as tofu (soy) or seitan (wheat).
- Eat foods that are grown locally and are in-season. You can check what types of produce are available at markets in Michigan by visiting the [Seasonal Food Guide](#): 
- “Shop your pantry” first before buying groceries to save money and reduce food waste.
- Organize and clean your fridge and freezer regularly to save any food that is close to its expiration date.
- Consider growing some of your own vegetables or herbs in a garden or pot instead of buying them.
- Shop at local farmers’ markets for vegetables and fruits, meat, dairy products, breads, and more. [West Michigan Farm Markets.org](#) has an interactive map of markets in ten counties that accept MI Bridge cards. 
- Share leftover meals with your friends, neighbors, or donate extra portions to community centers or food banks to prevent waste.
- Try to compost food scraps and avoid sending food or organic materials like napkins, plates or cups to the landfill. This prevents harmful methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) from being released by landfills.
- Consider restaurants that feature local or seasonal ingredients. And responsibly package their food by avoiding Styrofoam and single-use containers.

## CLEAN TRANSIT:

- Use the **free DASH bus** in downtown Grand Rapids.
- Buy a reloadable **Wave Card** to easily Ride the Rapid and stay under the \$5.25 daily cap. Each card is only \$3 and are sold at Central Station and most Walgreens and Speedways in Grand Rapids.
- Download the **Transit app** on your phone to see the closest bus routes and frequencies. 
- Buy a safe bike helmet with **multidirectional impact protection system** (MIPS®) technology to keep your brain safe while biking on the road.
- Learn about the safe bike routes near you and plan a fossil-fuel-free trip to a park, store, your friend’s house or the library. [Scan this link to view maps from the Greater Grand Rapids Bicycle Coalition](#): 
- Offer a ride to a friend or coworker to reduce the number of single-destination & single-person trips.
- Turn off your car if you’re waiting **more than five minutes** to pick someone up. Especially at schools or around people who are sensitive to air pollution.
- Rent an electric car for \$5/hour from the **DART Carshare** program by Mobile GR.   
*Scan this link to learn how it works:*
- Use an efficient vehicle if and when possible.
- Maintain your vehicle so it drives efficiently & clean.
- Consider purchasing a hybrid or electric vehicle.

## THRIVING ENVIRONMENT:

- Bag your lawn clippings, branches, or other yard waste for curbside yard waste collection in the City of Grand Rapids. *This service is available the 1<sup>st</sup> full week in April until the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday in December.*
- Bag and throw away your outdoor pets’ waste.
- Opt-in for curbside recycling if available where you live. Recycling is **free** for all Grand Rapids residents.
- Visit [ReimagineTrash.org](#) to learn what you **can** and **cannot** put in your bin.   
But “**when in doubt, throw it out**” to keep the Kent County Recycling Facilities safe.
- Refuse** disposable goods to prevent waste. **Reduce** the amount of single-use items in your life. **Repair** easily fixed goods before buying new ones. **Reuse** durable goods to replace consumable items. **Repurpose** goods for a new use before discarding. **Recycle** only materials that Kent County accepts.
- Choose *native plants* instead of other types for your lawn, garden, or backyard. Native plants are built for Michigan and the pollinators that live here.
- Clear your neighborhood storm drain of leaves, snow, and ice. This will reduce flooding in our streets.
- Use vinegar and hot water to treat unwanted weeds rather than harmful chemical pesticides.
- Share this information with your neighbors.



Office of Sustainability

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