

# Healthy Homes & Power of Home Programs of Saint Paul Resource Packet



The Saint Paul Healthy Homes program will address pre-weatherization (health and safety) and weatherization (insulation and air sealing) projects in qualified 1-4 unit owner-occupied residential properties.

The Saint Paul Power of Home program will replace gas furnaces, water heaters, stovetops, and clothes dryers with new, efficient electric equipment in qualified single-family owner-occupied homes.

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This welcome packet contains helpful insights about both **Healthy Homes** and **Power of Home** programs and information about other programs in Minnesota, energy efficiency tips, and tax resources. This packet is meant as a guide to assist with navigating weatherization, electrification, and sustainability. If you have questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to use the contacts in this document to find answers to your questions.

### HEALTHY HOMES PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Living in a home that requires basic repairs and consumes excessive energy can cause significant stress and financial strain for families. **Weatherization** is the process of making a home more energy efficient by installing insulation and sealing air leaks. Some homes have health and safety issues, such as outdated and dangerous electrical wiring and asbestos, and those homes can't be weatherized until the issues are addressed. **Pre-weatherization** is the process of fixing problems that prevent weatherization from happening. The Healthy Homes Program of Saint Paul offers both pre-weatherization (health and safety) and weatherization (insulation and air-sealing) services. The program targets qualified households that need critical repairs before weatherization can take place. By making these repairs possible, the program helps homeowners enjoy improved comfort, safety, and cost savings.



### POWER OF HOME PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Power of Home Program of Saint Paul is designed to assist homeowners in electrifying their residences. Electrification involves replacing household equipment and appliances that use fossil fuels, like natural gas, with new, efficient, electric-powered alternatives. This shift can lead to healthier living conditions and increased comfort for residents. By using electricity instead of gas, households may also see a reduction in their utility costs. Eligible upgrades include equipment for heating, cooling, water heating, cooking, and clothes drying.

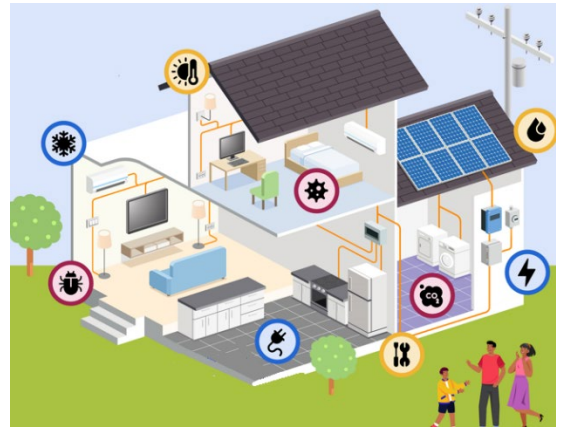


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## **BENEFITS OF WEATHERIZATION**

Weatherization refers to a set of actions a homeowner can take to reduce the loss of conditioned air to the outside. These measures may include air sealing, insulating attics, walls, crawl spaces, and air ducts. Weatherization improves comfort, lessens health risks, and reduces heating and cooling costs. Weatherization can also reduce stress associated with high energy bills and even improve one's sleep.



## **BENEFITS OF ELECTRIFICATION**

Electrification means fully or partially switching from equipment that burns natural gas or other fossil fuels to equipment that uses electricity. As electricity is increasingly produced from low-carbon sources such as wind and solar, shifting from technologies that use fossil fuels to those that use electricity reduces emissions.



New efficient electric household equipment, such as air source heat pump heating/cooling systems, water heaters, clothes dryers, and induction stove tops, can improve health by eliminating toxic chemicals associated with burning natural gas. Highly efficient electric equipment can also improve the comfort of the home and may reduce utility bills.

## **MINNESOTA ENERGY GUIDE**

The Minnesota Department of Commerce has published the Home Energy Guide, which is filled with practical information on how to make your home more energy efficient. You can find the guide at: <https://mn.gov/commerce-stat/pdfs/home-energy-guide.pdf>. Printed versions are also available upon request. To order a copy, contact the Energy Information Center at 800-657-3710 or [energy.info@state.mn.us](mailto:energy.info@state.mn.us)

- Para obtener una copia traducida de la Guía de energía de Minnesota, comuníquese con el contacto del programa.
- Si aad u hesho nuqul tarjumaad ah oo ah Tusaha Tamarta Minnesota, la xiriir barnaamijka.
- Rau ib daim ntawv luam ntawm Minnesota Energy Guide, hu rau qhov kev pab cuam hu.



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## **XCEL'S ELECTRIC SPACE HEATING RATE**

Xcel Energy offers a lower rate specifically for customers who use electricity as their primary heating source. This rate is significantly lower than the general rate. Power of Home participants are encouraged to contact Xcel's Customer Service at (800) 895-4999 to learn about the rate and consider signing up for it.

## **HEALTHY HOMES AND POWER OF HOME PROGRAM ROADMAP**



## **MAINTENANCE AND SERVICING YOUR EQUIPMENT**

With any new equipment, it is recommended to read the owner's manual after installation. It is also advised to speak with the installing contractor to ensure that you understand what maintenance is required on an annual basis.

Proper operation and maintenance will help save energy and ensure efficient performance when maintaining a heat pump. It is recommended servicing your heat pump at least once a year by a professional technician. Skilled professionals can offer the most reliable service and troubleshooting.

To learn more about heat pump maintenance, visit:

<https://www.energy.gov/energysaver/operating-and-maintaining-your-heat-pump>

Regular maintenance of your water heater can prevent many issues. Regular inspections by professionals can also help catch potential issues before they become major problems.

To learn more about water heater maintenance, visit:

<https://www.energy.gov/energysaver/storage-water-heaters>

### **ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS**

Many programs exist in Minnesota designed to help homeowners with energy efficiency efforts and home maintenance. While the following list is not exhaustive, you may find it helpful. The following programs are broken down into general focus areas.

#### **ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS**

- **Minnesota Center for Energy & Environment:** (651-221-4462)  
Minnesota Center for Energy & Environment (CEE) offers a wide variety of services, including statewide and county home improvement loans, energy efficiency programs, and financing.
- **Xcel Energy Whole Home Efficiency Program:**  
Xcel Energy's Whole Home Efficiency program can help you identify projects that enhance your home's efficiency, and the enhanced cash rebates will reduce your costs.
- **Community Action Partnership of Ramsey & Washington Counties:**  
Community Action Partnership of Ramsey & Washington Counties (CAPRW) offers various energy, food, housing, transportation, and employment services to income-qualified households in Ramsey and Washington Counties.
- **Energy Cents Coalition:** (651-774-9010)  
Energy CENTS promotes affordable utility services for low-income Minnesotans through regulatory and legislative advocacy, direct bill payment, and conservation assistance programs focused on weatherization.



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## HOME REPAIR PROGRAMS

- **[Minnesota Housing Home Improvement Programs](#)**

Minnesota Housing offers a variety of loan programs to help make necessary repairs or updates to your home. They work with local participating lenders who can answer questions about program eligibility and help you learn about the features of their programs. Explore more about their programs by visiting the link provided.

- **[Rebuilding Together](#)** (651-776-4273):

Rebuilding Together Minnesota is a nonprofit organization with a mission to repair homes, revitalize communities, and rebuild lives. They serve low-income homeowners who are seniors, individuals living with disabilities, families with children, and veterans and their families in need.

- **[Hearts and Hammers](#)** (651-636-0797):

Hearts and Hammers assists low-income homeowners struggling with deteriorating home exteriors. Hearts and Hammers provides free exterior restorations to help keep people in the homes they love.

- **[NeighborWorks Home Partners](#)** (651-292-8710):

NeighborWorks Home Partners offers a number of services, including workshops, financial counseling, coaching, and advice.

- **[Ramsey County HouseCalls](#)** (651-266-1290):

The HouseCalls program provides direct financial assistance and support to prevent families in Ramsey County from becoming homeless due to safety and sanitation concerns. A collaboration between the Saint Paul - Ramsey County Public Health Department and Minnesota Community Care.

- **[Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Housing Services](#)** (651-774-6995):

Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Housing Services provides rehabilitation and energy loans for home improvements on the East Side.

## MISCELLANEOUS PROGRAMS

- **[Project Safe Haven](#)**: (651-224-7811)

With this FREE program provided by the Saint Paul Fire Department, you can obtain free smoke alarms, carbon monoxide detectors, and Stovetop Fire Stops. This program was created to help ensure households have working smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

- **[Evie & HOURCAR](#)**

HOURCAR provides a network of electric and fuel hub-based vehicles for round-trips as short as 30 minutes or as long as 3 days in the Minneapolis and Saint Paul Metro Area. Evie offers an all-electric fleet. Charging, insurance, and metered parking costs are included in the plan.

- **[Capitol Region Watershed District \(CRWD\)](#)**

The Capitol Region Watershed District (CRWD) provides Native Landscape Grants to expand native landscape projects in its service area. These projects foster the expansion of native plant communities, provide pollinator habitat, and prevent stormwater pollution from entering our lakes and rivers.

- **[Lawns to Legumes](#)**

The Lawns to Legumes program offers a combination of workshops, coaching, planting guides, and cost-share funding (individual support grants) for installing pollinator-friendly native plantings in residential lawns.



## **INFORMATION ON TAXES AND CREDITS**

There are a number of free services available to Saint Paul residents that provide tax preparation information and workshops. Visit the following websites to learn more:

- [Saint Paul Public Library system](#)
- [Prepare and Prosper do it yourself tax prep](#)
- [AARP Foundation Tax-Aide](#)
- [Minnesota Department of Revenue Tax Preparation Sites](#)

## Program Feedback

We appreciate your participation in the Healthy Homes/Power of Home Program. To continue improving our processes and programs, please provide any feedback via email or phone to [david.schroeder@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:david.schroeder@ci.stpaul.mn.us) or 651-266-8540. Thank you!

**Notes:**

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