



# SUSTAINABILITY STEPS

Here in Charleston as soon as the summer months start, we put our air conditioning to work! This can dramatically change the energy bills we pay. It is important to understand your home's energy efficiency so you can save money on energy bills and reduce your impact on the environment. Here are some tips, tricks and resources to help you reduce your energy consumption, save you money and keep you safe and cool this summer season.

The term weatherization refers to improving a home or building to seal up any leaks, drafts and other issue that allow heat or AC to escape. The main focus of weatherization is the building envelope which contains all elements of a home that separates the inside from the outside. Some common measures taken to weatherize a home include:

- Adding insulations to your attic, walls or floors
- Air sealing windows and doors
- Utilizing programmable thermostats
- Cleaning, repairing or replacing HVAC equipment
- Replacing light bulbs
- Cleaning and improving ventilation equipment
- Insulating water heater and pipes
- And much more

So, what are your first steps? The best way to start the weatherization process is by getting a professional and **FREE** audit done to your home. After this audit is done you will receive a report back detailing what areas of your house are wasting the most energy and best practices on how to fix it. How you choose to fix it is flexible to your situation. This means you can either reach out to your utility, a private contractor, a local organization specializing in weatherization, or do it yourself. Click here to learn about options for you!

- [Dominion Energy Free In-home Audit](#)
- [Dominion Energy Free Virtual Audit](#)
- [Berkely Electric Cooperative Free Energy Audit](#)
- [South Carolina Energy Saver Tool](#)
- [Sustainability Institute](#) For Home & Non-Profit
  - FREE Home Energy Checkup/Analysis
  - FREE Home Energy Efficiency Retrofits
  - Serving income-qualified homeowners & non-profits- inquire with them for eligibility
- [Palmetto Cap](#)
  - FREE Home Energy Efficiency Retrofits for individuals and families who meet income guidelines

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