

How you can help-Energy Efficiency

Carmel Residents can make a significant impact on energy efficiency and reduce their carbon footprint by adopting environmentally responsible practices. Here are several ways you can contribute to energy efficiency and help combat climate change:

1. Minimize Energy Consumption:

- Use energy-efficient appliances and LED lighting to reduce electricity consumption. Replace incandescent bulbs.
- Unplug devices and chargers when not in use to prevent standby power consumption.
- Seal gaps and cracks in the home's structure and improve insulation to reduce heating and cooling costs.
- Adjust the temperature setpoints in your refrigerator and freezer.

2. Renewable energy:

- Follow [this guide](#) and learn how easy it is to reduce your energy use at home and on the road.
- Consider Installing solar panels on rooftops to generate clean energy for your home. Learn more about this in [this website](#)
- Make informed decisions about financing solar and meet the active Solar Installers in Hamilton County Area. Learn more in this [guide](#)
- Learn more about solarize Indiana [here](#)

3. Community Engagement

- Participate in city initiatives related to plant trees and shrubs strategically to provide natural shading and reduce cooling costs.
- Stay informed about upcoming information sessions on solar energy and the installation of solar technology for your property. Carmel Green Initiatives hosts these sessions at various locations and times to accommodate residents. For additional details, please visit Carmelgreen.org

4. Behavioral change:

- Use natural lighting whenever possible. Open curtains/blinds to let the sun in during cold day
- Take shorter and colder showers.
- Wash clothes in cold water
- Keep in mind that appliances continue to consume power even when not in use. To address this, you may want to invest in smart plugs that allow you to create automated schedules for your appliances. For instance, if you typically only use your coffee maker in the morning, you can program the smart plug to turn it on at 8am and off at 10am, reducing unnecessary energy consumption.
- Set your ceiling fan to rotate clockwise, which will move warm air down toward you and into the rest of the room.
- Keep windows closed during the day to limit humidity coming into your living space. Open windows at night when it is cooler outside.

- Keep your body cool by drinking plenty of water, wearing light colored cotton clothing, applying a cold cloth to your wrists and neck, and swapping fleece sheets for cotton.