Are you in the market for (or do you own) a home that was built after 2000?

Energy Savings Checklist and Ideas

Top 5 energy efficiency recommendations for residences built after 2000?

1 Air seal leaks in the house to prevent drafts
2 Seal all duct work to prevent air leaks and lost energy
3 Replace incandescent lighting with LED's or CFL's
4 Look for hidden "vampire" electrical loads
5 Maintain appliances

UNDERSTAND YOUR UTILITY BILL AND HOW MUCH ENERGY IS COSTING YOU:

○ Ask the home seller for the utility bills of the past 12 months. Remember most customers now get their electricity from Marin Clean Energy and natural gas from PG&E.

○ You can also use PG&E's free website **https://www.pge.com/myenergy** to see monthly, daily, and hourly energy usage and cost.

AIR SEALING:

○ Are there many recessed lights? *Recessed lights are a major source air leakage into the attic.*
○ Look for a black stain on the carpet along the walls? *This is a sign of air leakage into the crawlspace.*
○ Is the attic access door insulated and sealed? *This can be a major source of drafts.*

DUCT SYSTEMS:

○ Have your ducts been tested and sealed? *Typical Napa County homes leak 30-50% of their airflow.*
○ Lift up a floor register and see if it is sealed between the metal duct and the wood framing.

LIGHTING:

○ Are there LED or CFL lights in the house? *LED lighting can save 80-90% of the electricity used.*

"VAMPIRE" ELECTRICAL LOADS:

○ Are TVs and computers completely turned off? *Standby mode uses a substantial amount of energy.*
○ Are video game consoles turned off? *Consoles can use as much energy as a refrigerator.*
○ Unplug chargers when not in use. *Chargers can use electricity even when the device is not plugged in.*

APPLIANCES:

○ Refrigerator *Look for the EnergyStar label, 10+ year old refrigerators can be the one of the largest consumers of electricity. Vacuum the coils below or behind the unit to keep it running properly.*

○ Washer/dryer *Keep lint filters clean after every load. Only run full loads.*

○ Has the dryer vent been cleaned? *Vents should be cleaned yearly, reducing energy use by 50%.*

○ Dishwasher *Run only full loads of dishes, dishwashers will use a lot water as well as electricity.*

HEATING AND COOLING UNITS:

○ How old is the heating and air conditioning unit? _____ *Most systems last only 15-20 years.*

○ Is there a service record showing when the unit was last inspected? *Units should be inspected at least every 2 years.*

○ Is there a programmable thermostat? *You can save 10-15% of your energy if programmed properly.*

WINDOWS AND DOORS:

○ Are the window and doorframes caulked on the outside and weather-stripped? *Run your hand around them to see if you can feel any air coming in.*

WATER SYSTEM AND USAGE:

○ Is the water heater energy efficient? *Look at the Energy Guide label to learn about the consumption.*

○ Are the hot water pipes wrapped with insulation? *This is a significant source of lost heat.*

○ Are the showerheads low-flow to save on water? *Low flow heads can cut water use by 40-60%.*

○ Are the faucets and toilets free of leaks? *Leaks can be a large source of water consumption.*

○ Is there a large lawn area? *Lawns are the number one water user in Napa County check with the City to see what rebates are available to replace turf with drought tolerant plants .*

FINANCIAL LOANS AND REBATES:

○ There are many energy efficient rebates available through PG&E and Energy Upgrade California, check their websites for more information.

○ PACE - Property Assessed Clean Energy funding is now available in Napa County. PACE is a great way to pay for energy efficient upgrades with zero money out of pocket. American Canyon currently works with HERO, California First, and Ygrene. For more information, see the websites below.

To make your home more comfortable, efficient, and save money check out these great local resources:

energyupgradeCA.org
sustainablenapacounty.org
heroprogram.com
Renewfinancial/product/californiafirst
Ygreneworks.com