

# EFFICIENCY MANITOBA

SPRING 2024

**OPEN THE  
DOOR TO  
ENERGY  
SAVINGS**

**IN THIS ISSUE:**

Learn how to save energy in different rooms throughout your home, find out how to enter our giveaway, and more!

# ENERGY EFFICIENCY, ROOM BY ROOM

Many Manitoba homes use more energy than required. Fortunately, there are upgrades you can make and habits you can adopt to use less energy and lower your energy bills. We're here to help you do just that!

Throughout this magazine, you'll find rebates, offers, and tips tailored to each room in your home so you can live an energy-efficient lifestyle. Maybe you'll want to choose one tip in each room to try out this year, or maybe you'll choose to tackle a larger renovation. However you approach your energy efficiency upgrades and behaviours, remember to check Efficiency Manitoba first. Our programs and rebates help make saving energy easier and more affordable.

This magazine focuses on energy efficiency around your home. That said, whether you're looking to make upgrades in your home, business, or community, we're here to help. Let's save today and tomorrow — together.



## REBATES FOR MAJOR RETROFITS

If you're making multiple energy-saving upgrades to your home, consider participating in our Home Energy Retrofits. An energy advisor will identify energy-saving opportunities that are suitable for your home, and you'll receive a recommended upgrade report to help plan your major retrofit and achieve substantial energy savings. Plus, you can receive a rebate! Visit [efficiencyMB.ca/retrofits](http://efficiencyMB.ca/retrofits) to learn more about this offer.



## GIVEAWAY ALERT!

Sign up for our newsletter at [efficiencyMB.ca/newsletter](http://efficiencyMB.ca/newsletter) by 11:59 p.m. on May 22, 2024 to be entered into our giveaway. Three lucky winners will receive a prize pack with energy-efficient devices and Efficiency Manitoba merch. And if you're already subscribed to one of our newsletters — thank you! Everyone who's already subscribed will be automatically entered into the giveaway.

Google Nest Learning Thermostat (3rd Generation) and Google Nest Temperature Sensor provided by:



EFFICIENCY MANITOBA

# REBATES TO HELP YOU SAVE

Savings are in full bloom with our programs and rebates! For a full list of energy efficiency offers and more details on how to apply, visit [efficiencyMB.ca](http://efficiencyMB.ca).

OFFER	WHAT IT IS	REBATE
<b>Air Source Heat Pump Rebate</b>	Energy-efficient heating and cooling option to reduce your electric heating costs by up to 30%	Up to \$1.65 per square foot
<b>Appliance Recycling Program</b>	Free in-home pick-up and recycling of your old working fridge and/or freezer	\$30 per fridge or freezer
<b>Energy Efficiency Assistance Program</b>	Free and subsidized energy efficiency upgrades for income-qualifying households	Free home energy check-up, insulation, and energy-saving devices Subsidized high-efficiency natural gas furnace upgrade \$5,000 high-efficiency natural gas boiler rebate
<b>First Nation Energy Efficiency Program</b>	We work with First Nation communities to provide accessible and flexible energy efficiency programs to help reduce energy use and save money	Free insulation upgrades and energy-saving devices
<b>Ground Source Heat Pump Rebate</b>	Energy-efficient heating and cooling option to reduce your electric heating costs by up to 60%	Up to \$2.50 per square foot
<b>Home Energy Retrofits</b>	Rebates for extensive home renovations that will significantly reduce your home's energy usage	\$75 to \$150 per gigajoule (GJ) of site energy use reduction
<b>Home Insulation Rebate</b>	Rebates on material costs for attic, foundation, and wall insulation	Money back on insulation material costs
<b>Métis Energy Efficiency Offers</b>	Free and subsidized energy efficiency upgrades for qualifying Red River Métis Citizens	Free home energy check-up and energy-saving devices Free high-efficiency natural gas furnace upgrade* \$5,000 high-efficiency natural gas boiler rebate
<b>New Homes Program</b>	Rebates for building a Certified Energy Efficient new home	Up to \$15,000 per home
<b>Solar Rebate</b>	Rebates on solar photovoltaic (PV) systems for homes connected to Manitoba Hydro's grid	\$0.50 per direct current (DC) watt installed, up to a maximum of 10 kW and \$5,000 per home
<b>Windows and Doors Rebate</b>	Rebates on eligible ENERGY STAR® certified windows and doors	\$100 for each eligible window and door installed, up to \$2,000 per home

\*Costs offset by the Manitoba Métis Federation

SAVE TODAY. SAVE TOMORROW.

# HEATING & COOLING WITH A HEAT PUMP

Your heating system is the single largest user of energy at home; it can account for almost 60% of your energy bill! To lower your electric heating costs, consider an energy-efficient heat pump. They transfer heat energy from the air or the ground to warm or cool your home. We also offer rebates on both air source and ground source heat pumps to make your upgrade more affordable.

Whyte Ridge Furnace and Air Duct Cleaning (a registered Efficiency Manitoba supplier) has installed air source heat pumps in homes throughout Manitoba.

“We’ve had amazing feedback from people that they’re reducing their electric bills,” says Taylor Adolphe, Operations Manager at Whyte Ridge.

“**The cost of installing an air source heat pump is higher than a traditional air conditioner, but when you do this with support from Efficiency Manitoba, it makes it a lot more reasonable to get it going, and you can save as you go.**”

The contractor works with you to submit the required documents for our heat pump rebate, and we’re here to help every step of the way.

“Efficiency Manitoba is very quick to check over everything, so there’s a level of confidence that we’re putting in a product that works. Efficiency Manitoba is on your side,” Taylor says. “When we have a question, we can reach out to Efficiency Manitoba’s heat pump team, and we can talk with them directly.”

Air source heat pumps can only operate down to a certain temperature (approximately between -10°C to -25°C, depending on the manufacturer’s specification), so you’ll need to have a secondary source of heating. Historically, air source heat pumps have been seen as only having electric back-up heat, but they can also work with a natural gas back-up, which is known as a hybrid system.



Taylor Adolphe, Operations Manager at Whyte Ridge Furnace and Air Duct Cleaning

In a hybrid system, the heat pump operates as the primary source of heating, and the natural gas furnace provides the secondary source of heating. When the outdoor air temperature drops below the air source heat pump’s operation point, the home’s thermostat will switch the heating source to the natural gas furnace. This reduces greenhouse gas emissions, which contribute to climate change.

With last year’s mild temperatures continuing through December, Taylor said people with a hybrid system were able to operate their air source heat pump well into the winter!



## HOW TO PARTICIPATE

Before you upgrade your heating system, it’s a good idea to first improve the insulation, windows, and airtightness of your home. These measures are often more cost effective, reduce your energy bills, and could help lower the cost of your heat pump system by reducing the size of heating system that you need.

Once you’re ready to upgrade your heating system, we recommend getting quotes from several of our registered contractors (you can find one by using our supplier directory at [efficiencyMB.ca/find-a-supplier](https://efficiencyMB.ca/find-a-supplier)). Be sure to send your application for approval before purchasing your heat pump or starting any work.

LEARN MORE



Scan this QR code to learn about our heat pump rebates or go to [efficiencyMB.ca/heatpump](https://efficiencyMB.ca/heatpump).

# AIR SOURCE VS. GROUND SOURCE HEAT PUMPS

## AIR SOURCE HEAT PUMP

A compressor circulates refrigerant that absorbs and releases heat between the indoor and outdoor equipment. In winter, heat is pulled from the outdoor air to warm your home. In summer, the system pulls heat from within the home and transfers it to the outdoor air.

### Benefits:

- ✓ Provides heating and cooling
- ✓ Easy to retrofit with your existing infrastructure
- ✓ Hybrid systems can reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- ✓ Reduces your electric heating costs by up to 30%

## GROUND SOURCE HEAT PUMP

An electric pump circulates fluid through a loop of pipes buried underground. In heating mode, the fluid absorbs heat from the ground, which stays at a stable temperature. Heat is extracted from the fluid and delivered into your home. In summer, heat is redistributed back into the ground.

### Benefits:

- ✓ Provides heating and cooling
- ✓ Low carbon heating solution
- ✓ Ideal for large lots and open spaces
- ✓ Reduces your electric heating costs by up to 60%

# COOKING UP SAVINGS IN THE KITCHEN

The kitchen is one of the rooms in your home that uses the most energy since it houses multiple major appliances. And because this area uses so much energy, it's a place where energy-saving habits can have a noticeable impact. Follow these tips to start saving energy today.



- ✓ When purchasing new appliances, make sure they're ENERGY STAR® certified. ENERGY STAR is an internationally recognized program that identifies the most efficient products available for purchase. If you notice that an appliance has a blue ENERGY STAR label, you can be confident it's in the top 10% to 30% of its class in energy performance. You may also want to look into buying an ENERGY STAR Most Efficient appliance. This is an annual designation awarded to the "best of the best" ENERGY STAR certified models in select product categories.
- ✓ Clean your refrigerator coils periodically to regulate the temperature. Vacuuming the grill beneath or behind your fridge regularly will help extend the life of your refrigerator compressor.



- ✓ If you have small appliances like air fryers and pressure cookers, use them instead of always using your oven. Make sure to also unplug your other countertop appliances, such as your coffee maker, after using them.
- ✓ When the weather allows, cook your meals on the grill to keep excess heat out of your home.
- ✓ If you have an exterior door into your kitchen, make sure it's properly air sealed. Also, consider replacing the door with an energy-efficient model. We offer rebates on select ENERGY STAR certified high-performance doors!
- ✓ Set your fridge thermostat to 4°C and your freezer to -18°C.
- ✓ Let leftovers cool before putting them in the fridge, allowing the appliance to do less work.
- ✓ Install a kitchen faucet aerator to reduce water consumption.
- ✓ Run your dishwasher only when it's full and use the energy-saving cycle if it has one. When it's used correctly (and when the model is ENERGY STAR certified), a dishwasher can be more energy efficient than washing by hand since it uses less hot water.
- ✓ Put a piece of paper in your fridge door and close the door. If the paper slides out when pulled, there's a good chance the seal isn't tight and should be cleaned or replaced.



We can take your old fridge and freezer off your hands and recycle them responsibly through our Appliance Recycling Program. Plus, we'll give you \$30 per eligible appliance! Turn to **page 9** to learn more.

# ENERGY-SAVING HABITS IN THE LIVING ROOM

A lot of life happens in the living room. Since it's a place where we spend so much time — and use a lot of energy, too — it's good to take note of your energy consumption and find ways to lower it. These energy-saving tips for your living room will help you save on your energy bills!

## STANDBY POWER

Did you know electronics that are plugged in draw power even when you aren't using them? This is called standby or phantom power, which can account for up to 10% of your household electricity use!

Use an advanced power strip with electronics like your TV and gaming system to stop them from drawing power when they're not in use. Simply plug your TV into the main outlet of the advanced power strip, and plug your gaming console into one of the controlled outlets. When you turn off your TV, you automatically cut power to your gaming system.

## MORE EASY WAYS TO SAVE

- ✓ During air conditioning season, increase your home's temperature by at least 3°C at night or while you're away to save on cooling costs. A smart thermostat can automate these temperature changes and can be controlled remotely.
- ✓ Don't leave your devices idle! Remember to turn off your TV, computer, and other electronics when you're not using them.
- ✓ Make the switch to LED light bulbs, which use up to 80% less electricity than incandescent bulbs.



# YOUR GUIDE TO A RESTFUL & ENERGY-EFFICIENT SLEEP

Your bedroom doesn't have major appliances like your kitchen, but you might use more energy than you think. Don't worry — you can rest easy each night knowing you're saving energy and money by following our expert advice!

## WINDOWS

Older windows are often poorly insulated and not airtight, letting in heat during the summer and cold during the winter. This makes your home less comfortable, forces your heating and cooling systems to work harder, and causes your monthly energy bills to go up.

One solution is to install high-performance windows with features like multiple panes of glass, low-e coatings, and high-quality weatherstripping. They reduce drafts and noise from outside, which will help you sleep more soundly. We offer rebates to make this decision even easier!

Not ready to upgrade just yet? Seal gaps and cracks in and around your windows with caulking and weatherstripping to reduce air leakage.

## AIR CONDITIONING

As the warm weather approaches, hold off on using your air conditioner until absolutely necessary. You can use outdoor temperature changes to your benefit by opening and closing windows or use a fan in the spring and early summer before the hottest days arrive. Also, change your heavy winter blanket for a lighter one for a more comfortable sleep.

## ELECTRONICS

Unplug devices like humidifiers, dehumidifiers, heated blankets, and chargers when you're not using them. And consider getting an LED night light instead of leaving the bathroom or hallway light on.



## LIGHTING

Want to create a relaxing ambience and save energy at the same time? Install a dimmer switch in your bedroom. Reducing light output means using less electricity.

# LEVEL UP YOUR BASEMENT'S ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Your basement may be at the bottom of your list when considering energy efficiency upgrades. Still, it's a part of your home where you can create a comfortable living space while achieving significant energy savings.

## BASEMENT UPGRADES

If you have an inefficient heating system or your basement is uninsulated, it's likely you're paying much more than you need to on your energy bills. The good news? We can help make these upgrades more affordable.

Upgrading the insulation in your basement will keep the heat out during warmer months and in during cooler months. Having proper insulation means you'll use less energy to cool and heat your home, lower your energy bills, and have a more comfortable living space. Through our Home Insulation Rebate, you can get money back on your material costs when you insulate your foundation walls. Income-qualifying households may also be eligible for free insulation upgrades in their basement through our Energy Efficiency Assistance Program or Métis Energy Efficiency Offers. Turn to **page 10** to learn more about insulation.

Some homes still have standard- and mid-efficiency natural gas furnaces or standard-efficiency boilers. You may qualify for a high-efficiency natural gas furnace or boiler upgrade through our income-based Energy Efficiency Assistance Program or Métis Energy Efficiency Offers.



## RECYCLE. GET A REBATE. FEEL GREAT.

Do you have an old, working, nearly empty fridge or freezer taking up space in your basement? We can take it off your hands!

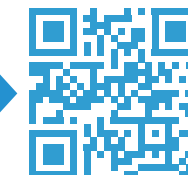
Through our Appliance Recycling Program, we accept working full-sized fridges and freezers and we'll give you \$30 for each qualifying unit we pick up. When you recycle an eligible full-sized fridge or freezer, we can also take your working dehumidifier, window air conditioner, undersized (bar-sized) fridge, or undersized freezer. By removing your working appliances, you'll reduce your energy consumption and save money on your energy bills.



It's important to recycle fridges and freezers properly since they contain ozone-depleting refrigerants, which are harmful to the environment. Recycling these appliances is one way to lessen our impact on climate change.

Our trusted service provider, PureSphera Recovery and Recycling, will pick up your appliance and ensure it's recycled in an environmentally friendly way. Once your appliance makes it to PureSphera's recycling facility, technicians strip away any plastic, copper, and aluminum. These materials are recycled into new products. The chemicals and gases in the appliance are safely removed, then the appliance is crushed and shredded into flakes of different materials. Ultimately, most of the appliance is recycled and very little goes to the landfill!

LEARN MORE



Scan this QR code to book your pick-up online or go to [efficiencyMB.ca/appliancerecycling](https://efficiencyMB.ca/appliancerecycling).



## MORE EASY WAYS TO SAVE

- ✓ Replace your furnace filter every three months.
- ✓ Clean the exterior air intake vent on your furnace. As air flows through, it collects dust and debris, so it's important to clean it to ensure proper air flow.
- ✓ Install pipe insulation on your water heater's hot and cold water lines.
- ✓ If you plan on being away for an extended period, turn your natural gas water heater to vacation mode.



## WAYS TO REDUCE ENERGY USE OUTDOORS

Whether you have a big backyard, a balcony, or something in between, your outdoor space is an extension of your home. Spring is a great time to consider how to make your outdoor space more energy efficient. Here are some tips to get started!

### HARNESS THE SUN'S POWER

If you have the space, solar photovoltaic (PV) systems can help reduce your monthly energy bill, lessen the impact of future rate increases, and increase the value of your property. Plus, we offer rebates! Visit [efficiencyMB.ca/solar](http://efficiencyMB.ca/solar) to learn how our Solar Rebate can help you save.

### BRIGHT IDEAS

Install timers and motion sensors to control your outdoor lights. This way they'll only be on when you need them, ensuring you're using the least amount of energy possible. You can also use solar lights to create ambient lighting on your deck or pathways rather than plugging in decorative string lights.

### COOL COMFORT

When it's time to turn on your air conditioner, make sure the outdoor unit is clean so it runs efficiently. Carefully brush or vacuum away any leaves, branches, grass, or debris that may have blown into your unit. If you need to replace your air conditioner, consider installing an air source heat pump, which provides both cooling and heating in one unit. See [page 2](#) for more information!

## THE IMPORTANCE OF INSULATION

Insulation slows the flow of heat in and out of your home, keeping your home warm in the winter and cool in the summer. This leads to savings on your energy bills and improved indoor comfort.

If you're looking to add insulation to your home, it's important to know and understand your options.

### What is R-value?

An insulation material's R-value indicates how well it resists heat transfer; that is, how good it is at keeping heat in your home during the winter and out in the summer.

The higher the R-value, the better the energy efficiency. When comparing insulation types, be sure to look for the R-value you want, rather than the thickness.

### Types of insulation

There are several types of insulation available, and some may be more suitable than others for your home.

- Loose-fill/blown-in insulation can be installed in attics and into finished wall cavities. It typically consists of small glass, cellulose, or mineral fibres. It has a relatively low cost, but the R-value per inch is also lower, so you'll need more insulation to reach the same R-value as other types of insulation.

- Batt insulation is pre-cut glass fibre or mineral wool insulation. It can be used in horizontal or vertical spaces, like attics or walls. The R-value per inch is slightly higher than loose-fill insulation.
- Rigid or semi-rigid insulation can be applied to the interior or exterior of a home. This type of insulation has a higher R-value per inch than batt or loose-fill insulation.
- Spray foam insulation is incredibly versatile and can be applied to the inside or outside of a home. Although it's more costly, it has the highest R-value per inch and can be used in tight or difficult spaces. Spray foam insulation should be installed by a professional.



Scan this QR code to learn about our insulation programs and rebates or go to [efficiencyMB.ca/insulation](http://efficiencyMB.ca/insulation).

# MÉTIS ENERGY EFFICIENCY OFFERS

Our valued partnerships help us reach all Manitobans in making energy efficiency upgrades. We're proud to work with the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF), the National Government of the Red River Métis, to help Red River Métis Citizens lower energy bills in their homes and businesses. Saving energy and money is made possible through our Métis Energy Efficiency Offers.

Through this partnership, we support an energy efficiency advocate at the MMF. The advocate shares program opportunities with their Red River Métis Citizens, answers any questions that come up, and helps guide them through the application process.

"The Métis Energy Efficiency Offers help out Red River Métis Citizens by reducing heating costs in their homes, and in turn lowering their energy bills," says Keith Kowall, MMF's energy efficiency advocate.

He shares the story of an individual whose gas furnace suddenly stopped working in late November. The customer took part in our Métis Energy Efficiency Offers for Red River Métis Citizens, and received a new high-efficiency natural gas furnace for free because of our partnership with the MMF.

**" Needless to say, they were appreciative. It's such a great thing to be able to help our Red River Métis Citizens access the program. "**

Keith visits communities throughout Manitoba to share program information. He says the energy needs of people vary, meaning the energy-saving opportunities vary too.

"Outside of larger urban centres like Winnipeg, Portage la Prairie, and Steinbach, a lot of our Red River Métis Citizens rely on their heating being electric as opposed to natural gas. Their needs are a lot different than someone in a larger urban setting," Keith says.

"It's something we're continuing to work on, to bring energy efficiency to those who rely on electric heating."

He encourages people to look into these programs and take part, especially starting with Métis Energy Efficiency Offers for your home, adding that it's an opportunity not to be missed.

"Why wouldn't you want to take advantage of making your home more energy efficient, thusly reducing your monthly energy bills?" Keith says. "You can take those savings and spend it on your family."



Keith Kowall, MMF energy efficiency advocate

## WHAT'S INCLUDED IN THE OFFER

Red River Métis Citizens who rent or own a home can take part in our Métis Energy Efficiency Offers, which can include the following:

- A free home energy check-up to find ways to save energy
- Free energy-saving devices, including LEDs, energy-efficient showerheads and aerators, and air-sealing products
- Free insulation for your attic, walls, and basement for qualifying areas (with installation included)
- A free natural gas furnace upgrade when replacing either a standard-efficiency or mid-efficiency furnace with costs offset by the MMF
- A \$5,000 rebate when upgrading from a standard-efficiency natural gas boiler to a high-efficiency natural gas boiler

## HOW TO PARTICIPATE

It's time to lower your energy bills, save energy, and enjoy a more comfortable home!

### Here's how to take part in our Métis Energy Efficiency Offers:

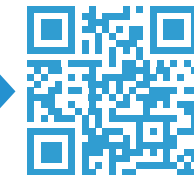
**You apply:** Get in touch with Efficiency Manitoba or Keith (keith.kowall@mmf.mb.ca or 431-668-3454) to apply. You must be a Red River Métis Citizen to apply.

**We plan:** Once approved, we'll set up a free home energy check-up to find ways you can save energy and money. If your home qualifies for a heating system upgrade or an insulation upgrade, our team of professionals will help coordinate everything and connect you with our registered contractors to complete the recommended upgrades.

**You and your family save:** There's no need for any upfront payment. The cost of your upgrades is entirely covered through the program and our partnership with the MMF.

In addition to our home offers, we also provide support for Red River Métis small businesses. Check [efficiencyMB.ca/ISBP](https://efficiencyMB.ca/ISBP) for more information.

LEARN MORE



Scan this QR code to learn more about our Métis Energy Efficiency Offers and apply or go to [efficiencyMB.ca/metisoffers](https://efficiencyMB.ca/metisoffers).



## GIVEAWAY ALERT!

Win a prize pack of energy-saving devices and Efficiency Manitoba merchandise!

To enter, sign up for one of our email newsletters. We have two subscriptions: energy efficiency for your home and energy efficiency for your business. Everyone who's already subscribed to one of our newsletters will be automatically entered into the giveaway.

Subscribe by May 22, 2024 for your chance to win. The winners will be notified by email by May 27, 2024. Best of luck!



Scan this QR code to enter our giveaway or go to [efficiencyMB.ca/newsletter](https://efficiencyMB.ca/newsletter).



Google Nest Learning Thermostat (3rd Generation) and Google Nest Temperature Sensor provided by:



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Toll free: 1-844-944-8181

Send us an email:  
[energyteam@efficiencyMB.ca](mailto:energyteam@efficiencyMB.ca)

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ACCÈS À  
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