



SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Green Paper: Benefits of Energy Efficient Homes

Prepared by the Sustainability Advisory Committee

Is your home energy-efficient? If not, you could be missing out on a number of benefits, including lower utility bills, reduced environmental impact, and improved health and well-being. Adequate insulation of roof and walls, high performance windows and doors, energy efficient appliances, smart thermostats, water wise landscaping, and water saving practices are all ways to make our homes more energy and resource efficient. Let's take a closer look.

Lower Energy Bills: Energy-efficient homes significantly reduce energy consumption and water usage leading to lower monthly utility bills. Energy-efficient appliances, better insulation, smart home technologies, and windows that prevent great temperature variations¹ contribute to these savings².

Smaller Carbon footprint: The environmental impact of reducing energy consumption results in a smaller carbon footprint. Energy-efficient homes and energy-star rated appliances reduce greenhouse gas emissions, aiding in the fight against climate change³.

Appeal When Selling Real Estate: In 2023, the National Association of Realtors conducted a survey where the importance of including sustainable features in a listing was established⁴ as energy efficiency is considered a selling factor.

¹ <https://www.nfrc.org/energy-performance-label/#tabs-nfrclabels|0>

² <https://www.energy.gov/energysaver/reducing-electricity-use-and-costs>

³ https://www.energystar.gov/about/how_energy_star_protects_environment/climate_change#:~:text=Reducing%20energy%20use%20cuts%20down,%2C%20buildings%2C%20and%20industrial%20plants.

⁴ <https://www.nar.realtor/blogs/economists-outlook/nar-2023-realtorsr-sustainability-report-residential#:~:text=Energy%20Efficiency%3A%20A%20Valuable%20Selling,energy%20efficiency%20in%20property%20listings.>

Comfortable Home: Efficient homes maintain consistent indoor temperatures, reducing drafts and cold spots, which results in improved comfort for the occupants independently of the weather condition⁵.

Government Incentives: Homeowners who invest in energy-efficient upgrades are offered incentives and tax credits. You can visit the [Go Green Del Mar website, Energy Efficient Homes & Businesses](#) to access links for rebates and incentives⁶.

Energy Independence: Energy producing homes that use solar are less reliant on external energy sources, and when they use energy storage systems, can maintain a degree of energy security. Large scale energy independence is also beneficial for the entire country by reducing our reliance on others⁷. If you haven't already, one of the things you can do is join the Clean Energy Alliance and sign up for its 100% renewable power option. Learn about the Clean Energy alliance here: <https://thecleanenergyalliance.org/>

Resilience: During power outages, energy-efficient homes with backup power systems can remain operational, ensuring safety and comfort. You can learn about sources of backup power and energy storage in our April 2023 Green Paper discussing [Back Up Power](#)⁸.

Health Benefits: Better performing homes also use construction materials subject to more strenuous regulations, including insulation and ventilation, resulting in improved indoor air quality from fewer allergens and pollutants, a generally improved health, and an overall reduction of premature deaths in the population. The table below from the Environmental Protection Agency illustrates how energy efficiency and renewable energy positively impact health, solidifies our electric network while boosting our economy⁹.

⁵<https://www.energystar.gov/ia/partners/publications/pubdocs/ES%20Homes%20V3%20Cons%20Broch%20FINAL%2009%2028%2010.pdf>

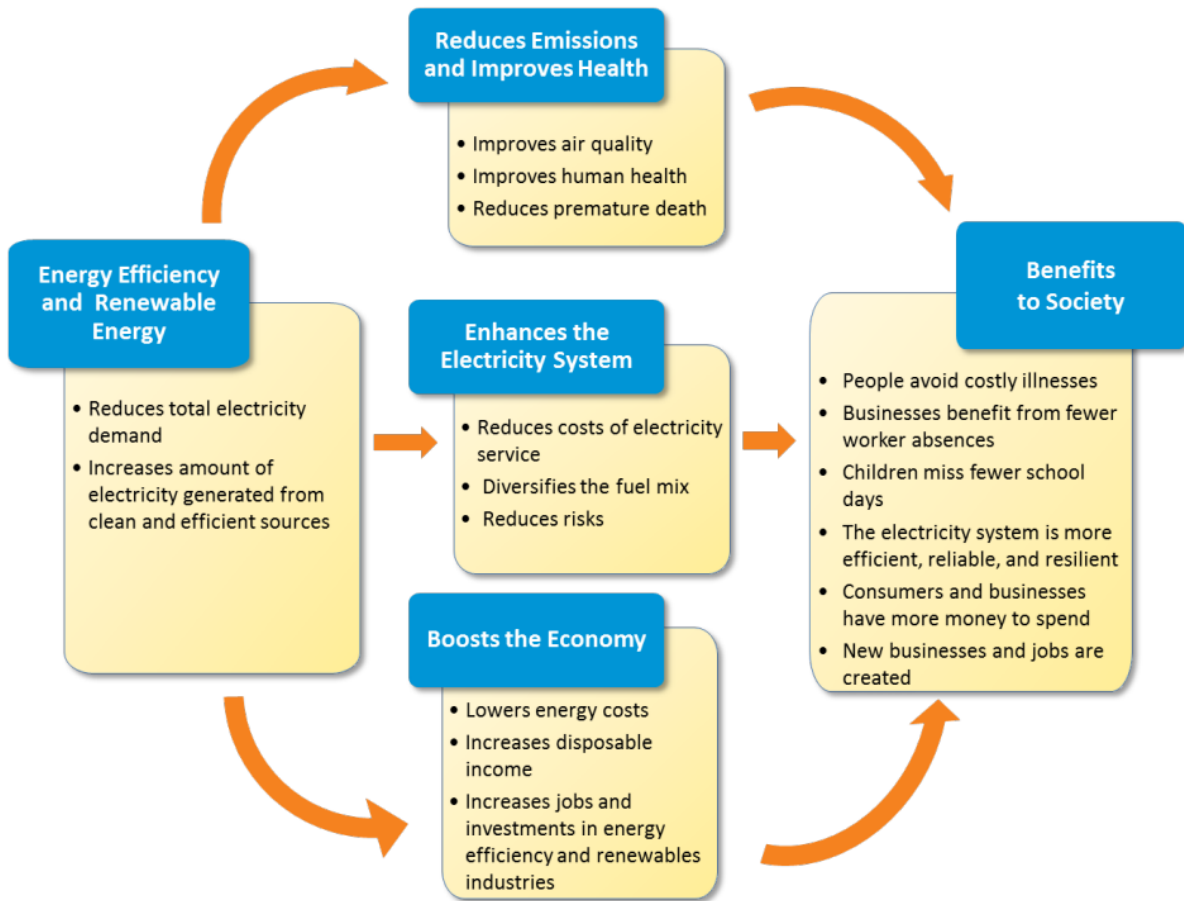
⁶ <https://www.delmar.ca.us/688/Energy-Efficient-Homes-Businesses>

⁷ <https://www.energy.gov/eere/energy-independence-and-security>

⁸ https://www.delmar.ca.us/DocumentCenter/View/8671/SAC-Green-Paper_Back-Up-Power

⁹ https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2018-07/documents/mbg_1_multiplebenefits.pdf

Figure I-2: The Multiple Benefits of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy



Future-Proofing: As energy efficiency standards become more stringent, energy-efficient homes are better positioned to comply with environmental regulations, fluctuations in energy prices, and climate events.

In conclusion, energy-efficient homes offer numerous advantages such as financial savings, well-being, and greenhouse gas emissions reduction. Investing in energy efficiency is not only a wise choice for homeowners but also a significant contribution to a sustainable future.