

HOW BUILDINGS CAN EMIT LESS CARBON

In order to become a climate solution, our buildings need to transform to be more sustainable. We can add sustainability in all stages of the building life cycle by doing activities like:

- Recycling materials during demolition for reuse in construction
- Using more energy efficient products in buildings
- Switching from a fossil fuel power source to a renewable energy power source
- Recycling materials during demolition

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USING GREEN MATERIALS TO REDUCE EMISSIONS DURING CONSTRUCTION

- Green building materials are made from renewable resources or recycled non-renewable resources.
- Using green materials minimizes waste and reduces millions of tons of construction materials in local landfills ([USGBC](#))
- Green materials are often designed with water conservation in mind, which both protects local water resources and reduces the energy needed to transport and use the water ([USGBC](#)).

2

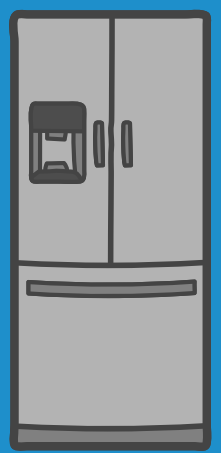
USING ENERGY EFFICIENT PRODUCTS TO REDUCE EMISSIONS DURING OPERATION

- During operation, 90% of energy use is from appliances and building equipment.
- Upgrading appliances like stoves, washers, and water heaters will reduce emissions and your energy bill.
- You can check if your appliance replacements will reduce emissions by checking their energy efficiency.

Tip: Finding Energy Efficient Appliances

ENERGY STAR is a federal program that promotes products more energy efficient than what is required by the minimum standards ([EESI](#)). ENERGY STAR products can be identified by their ENERGY STAR label. You can also go to their [website](#) to find energy efficient products, ranging from heating systems to laptops.

In certain cases, you can receive rebates or tax credits when upgrading your building or home with ENERGY STAR products.



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ELECTRIFYING BUILDINGS TO REDUCE EMISSIONS DURING OPERATION

Building Electrification is the shift from using fossil fuels like oil, gas, and coal to electricity.

Building electrification eliminates the direct emissions produced by your fossil fuel powered appliances. Electrification includes changes like switching from a gas to an electric stove, or from a gas water heater to a heat pump ([USGBC](#)).

To reduce the indirect emissions, utility providers can change their power source from fossil fuels to renewable sources like solar or wind energy ([USGBC](#)).