

7 Steps to a Clean Energy Oakland Home

Did you know that methane, the key component of natural gas, is a greenhouse gas 84 times more powerful than carbon dioxide? That means that **the best energy source for your home is clean, renewable electricity**. Reduce your climate impact by **decarbonizing your energy**: eliminating natural gas (and gasoline) altogether. Think of it as one integrated package of clean-energy actions!

Upgrade your electric panel. When you install solar, switch to electric appliances, or add an electric vehicle charger, you will probably need to upgrade your electric service panel. Plan ahead from the start: Talk to your electrician about including enough capacity in the panel to make the switch from gas to electric in the future. **Panel Upgrades are eligible for the 30% Federal Tax Credit if done when installing solar panels.**

Ensure Clean Energy. Make sure the electricity you're using at home is clean by going solar, installing other renewable energy sources, or choosing to go "deep green" with your electric utility. **Renewable energy systems purchased and installed at your home are eligible for the 30% Federal Tax Credit.**

Get a clean energy vehicle and install a home charger. Tired of high prices and nasty smells at the pump? Switch to an electric vehicle – or, ditch your car altogether in favor of car share, ride share, transit, biking, or walking! **Federal Tax Credits are available for certain EV models: see www.fueleconomy.gov/feg/taxevb.shtml.**

Electrify your cooking. One of the easiest and well-known ways to wean your home off natural gas is to switch to electric cooking. Are you a gourmet who shuns electric stoves? Try an induction stove, with fine-tuned controls as responsive as natural gas. Some even have large-capacity convection ovens.

Choose alternatives to a gas clothes dryer. The best form of clothes drying is a clothesline, and electric dryers are the next best choice. Numerous models are on the market, and can be installed just as easily as their gas alternatives. **For the most efficient dryer to meet your needs, visit Energy Star: <https://www.energystar.gov/most-efficient/me-certified-clothes-dryers/>.**

Get a high-efficiency water heater. Numerous technologies are available for electric home water heating, including on-demand systems. Heat pump water heaters are three times more efficient than the most efficient natural gas water heaters. Or, get "free" hot water by installing a solar thermal system. **Solar thermal is eligible for the 30% Federal Renewable Energy Tax Credit.**

Electrify your space heating. You can easily convert your gas furnace to a heat-pump heating system. Heat pump technology has been around since the early 1900s, and is widely used in Europe, the Middle East, and Asia. Popularity is now growing in the US for both heating and cooling. **Any heating or cooling system works best in a well-insulated, weatherized building; find rebates at www.bayareaenergyupgrade.org.**

