Go Electric!
How to make an electrification plan

Transitioning to efficient electric technologies is a process, not a single project. An informed plan will help you electrify, whether you want to swap systems out as they fail or you're ready to get off fossil fuels and improve your home's performance right now.

The basic steps:

- **Take a home inventory:** Use the checklist on the next page, or an online tool such as the Rewiring American Home Electrification Planner, to see what equipment you have.
- **Check your electrical panel:** Find out if it has adequate power and space for new circuits, and do any necessary pre-wiring.
- **Get an energy audit:** Get the full picture of your home's energy use, and opportunities to improve efficiency, comfort & safety.
- **Start with your priorities:** What is your motivation for electrifying? Lower your climate impact? Maximize health and comfort? Lower energy bills? Upgrade older equipment?
- **Get estimates from trusted contractors and explore available incentives:** Compare multiple estimates, and get the details on available incentives and rebates.
- **Plan upgrades over time:** You don't have to do everything at once. Plan to replace old appliances before they fail or make one big upgrade annually.

Tools to help you make an electrification plan

Rewiring America Home Electrification Planner

Create an account, answer a few basic questions, and you'll get a customized electrification plan that breaks everything down into a series of projects, with estimated costs, energy savings, and federal incentives.
homes.rewiringamerica.org

The Switch is On

Serving California and Washington with helpful tools for home electrification. Find local, state and federal incentives, and trusted contractors for home energy audits and upgrades. **switchison.org**

Electrify Oregon

Serving Oregon with Information on electrification benefits, available incentives, and trusted contractors in your area. **electrifyoregon.org**

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Take a quick home inventory

What type of system do you currently have in place?	Candidate for upgrade/electrification?	Priority (High/Med/Low)

Space Heating and Cooling(HVAC)

Do you have a gas furnace? Electric baseboard heating? Central AC? When were these systems installed?

Heating System: _____ ☐ _____

Cooling System: _____ ☐ _____

Water Heating

Do you have a gas or electric water heater? Find out how to determine its age at hotwatersolutionsnw.org/news

Water Heater: _____ ☐ _____

Appliances

Do you have a gas or electric range and dryer? When were they installed?

Range/Oven: _____ ☐ _____

Clothes Dryer: _____ ☐ _____

Weatherization

Are your walls, attic and floors insulated? Do you know the R value? Are your windows single or double pane? When were they installed?

Wall insulation: _____ ☐ _____

Attic and floor insulation: _____ ☐ _____

Windows: _____ ☐ _____

Other

What kind of car do you drive? Do you have a gas or wood fireplace? Do you have a gas lawnmower or leaf blower?

Vehicle: _____ ☐ _____

Fireplace: _____ ☐ _____

Lawn equipment: _____ ☐ _____

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☐ Check your electrical panel

To electrify everything, you need at least 100A service and space for some new circuits. With some planning, most homes can electrify everything in their home on their existing panel, but sometimes an upgrade to a 200A service is required.

With your inventory and priorities in hand, talk with a few electricians about the state of your panel, your long term electrification plan and the pros and cons of pre-wiring for all of your projects ahead of time vs. wiring for each project separately. Pre-wiring all at once can often save you money bay avoiding additional electrician visits.

Electrical Panel Size:_____

☐ Get a home energy audit

A home energy audit can act like a roadmap to help you increase your home's energy efficiency. You will learn whether your home needs insulation, weather sealing or duct maintenance, which appliances are most in need of replacement and any problem areas and fixes you should prioritize to save energy and improve the comfort of your home. It should include a heating load calculation to properly size your HVAC system and an overview of approximate costs and benefits for any recommended upgrades.

☐ Start with your priorities

Want cleaner indoor air? – start with an induction stove
Induction stoves perform better than gas stoves and do not produce the harmful by-products of combustion that lead to higher risks of asthma and other respiratory problems, and they do not leak methane into your home like gas stoves.

Want lower energy bills? – start with an EV or Heat Pump Water Heater
Electric vehicles can lower gas bills by $1,000 or more per year depending on how much you drive and virtually eliminate tuneups and other maintenance costs that also add to savings. A heat pump water heater is a relatively low cost upgrade that can save hundreds of dollars in energy costs per year.

Want more home comfort? – prioritize heat pumps for space heating and cooling
Since heat pumps heat and cool with the same equipment, you automatically get air conditioning, which is becoming more important even in cooler parts of the country. Heat pumps move air more continuously than furnaces or baseboard heat, which leads to fewer cold spots and more air filtration for cleaner indoor air.

Worried about something failing? – prioritize your older appliances
It definitely makes sense to replace aging appliances before they fail – it can be very unpleasant to be without heat or hot water while you are arranging for a replacement – much better to replace them when they are still working.

Can't afford to replace appliances at the moment? – start with the small things
Anything that burns fossil fuels can be replaced with an electric alternative – bbq's, lawn mowers, leaf blowers and chain saws are a great way to start electrifying for only hundreds of dollars. An induction hot plate is a low cost way to avoid using a gas stove and try out induction before you replace a gas range.

☐ Get estimates from trusted contractors

- Use theswitchison.org or electrifyoregon.org or homes.rewiringamerica.org to find trusted contractors in your area.
- Make sure you're working with someone who's experienced with and enthusiastic about electrification technologies, such as heat pumps or heat pump water heaters. If they suggest you need a gas furnace - talk to someone else.
- Get estimates from at least three contractors for each project. Use written contracts. Make sure they look at your insulation and ducts and do a load calculation to properly size your equipment.
- Request price, payment terms, project schedule, and if you'll need to do any prep work before they can begin (e.g. get an electrician to add a circuit).
- Ask for information about local, state and federal incentives, resources for low/moderate income households, and an AHRI Certificate rating from your HVAC contractor to ensure that the proposed system is efficient enough to qualify for federal tax credits.
- If you find a contractor you like, ask them for referrals to other trades you'll also need like plumbers or electricians or insulation installers.

☐ Plan upgrades over time

Electrifying a whole home can take time. Start with what is most urgent or most important to you then take on another project later. Some people try to do one project a year - that is a great way to maximize federal tax credit incentives that have yearly limits.