







# 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 of an electrification plan:

-  **Take an inventory:** Using the checklist on the next page, or using an online tool such as the [Rewiring American Home Electrification Planner](#), take a tour of your house to see what you currently have in place.
-  **Consider your priorities:** What is your motivation for electrifying? To lower your climate impact? Maximize health and comfort? Lower your energy bills? To upgrade older equipment?
-  **Check your electrical panel:** See how it's sized, and do any necessary pre-wiring.
-  **Get an energy audit:** Get the full picture of your home's energy use, comfort & safety
-  **Get estimates from local trusted contractors and explore available incentives:** Compare multiple estimates, and get the details on the incentives and rebates that will make your projects more affordable.
-  **Plan replacements over time:** You don't have to do everything at once. Plan to replace old appliances on burnout or think about making one big electrification 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 incentives. Visit [homes.rewiringamerica.org](https://homes.rewiringamerica.org) to get started.

### **ElectrifyPDX**

Local contractors and a helpful blog

### **Electrify Now**

Helpful videos and resources about a whole range of electrification projects

### **Electrify Oregon**

Statewide contractor listings, incentives information, and more

# Take a quick home inventory

What type of system do you currently have in place?

Candidate for  
upgrade/electrification?

Priority  
(High/Med/Low)

## Air 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/how-old-is-my-water-heater](http://hotwatersolutionsnw.org/news/how-old-is-my-water-heater)*

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: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Check your electrical panel

One of the first things to do is check the size of your home's electrical service. Whether you're electrifying one appliance or all of them, you'll likely need an electrician to pre-wire your home. To electrify everything, you need at least 100A service, and you may need 200A. With some planning, most homes can electrify everything in their home on their existing panel.

With your inventory and priorities in hand, talk with a few electricians about the state of your panel 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 save you a lot of money, since you get charged every time an electrician comes to your home.

Electrical Panel Size: \_\_\_\_\_

## Get a home energy audit

A home energy audit can act like a roadmap to increasing your home's efficiency, showing you exactly what needs upgrading and what only needs to be sealed or repaired. It can help you determine how much energy your home uses, where your home is inefficient, and which problem areas and fixes you should prioritize to save energy and improve the comfort of your home. It also results in recommendations that take your home's entire ecosystem into account. It should also include a Manual J Calculation to properly size your HVAC system.

## Start with your priorities

If you want to upgrade your equipment, consider starting with what is most near its end of life. If you're looking to improve your indoor air quality, you may want to replace your gas range with an induction range. If you're looking to reduce your carbon footprint, your water heater, car, and furnace are the biggest sources of carbon emissions. If you're looking to improve your home comfort, a heat pump will warm and cool, providing year-round comfort.

## Get estimates from trusted contractors

- Read reviews carefully, ask friends for referrals, and check [electrifypdx.org](http://electrifypdx.org) for a list.
- Get estimates from at least two contractors for each project. Use written contracts.
- 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).
- 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.
- 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.