GREEN MUNICIPAL FUND
FONDS MUNICIPAL VERT

This document is part of Understanding Energy Efficiency: A Guide for Affordable Housing Providers.

Click here to access the full guide.

Energy efficiency for affordable housing providers: Options to conserve energy and save money

An **Energy conservation measure (ECM)** is an upgrade to a building component or installation of energy-saving equipment, with the primary goal of saving energy.

A **retrofit** is an upgrade to an existing energy-consuming system.

Energy savings opportunities are typically categorized by the building systems that they affect. There are dozens of ECMs to consider—everything from simple, low-cost upgrades to more complex and/or expensive measures.

Categories of ECMs vary in cost and complexity. The full guide looks at ECMs in six areas that are typically viable in an affordable housing context.

Access the full guide to learn more about these ECMs along with case studies, key considerations for specific ECMs, and definitions of common energy terms:

Controls, optimization and maintenance
Recommissioning, thermostats and occupancy sensors

Lighting
Lighting both inside and outside of the building

Domestic hot and cold water
Systems that produce and distribute hot and cold water

Heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC)
One of the more complex systems; includes heat and energy recovery ventilation; heat pumps and air conditioning units, boilers and furnaces; and fans, motors and pumps

Building envelope
Air sealing, insulation and windows

Renewable energy
Solar photovoltaic (PV), geothermal and solar air and hot water heating