

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.

The Sustainable Affordable Housing initiative, delivered through the Green Municipal Fund, supports affordable housing providers to improve their energy efficiency. This is achieved through funding and capacity development support for energy efficient retrofits and new builds. **Visit our website** for more information, including how to access a regional energy coach.

[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