

# Energy Conservation

*Local environmental commissions and green teams can play a key role through grassroots initiatives to inform and motivate residents and business owners about saving money by saving energy.*

## Conserving Energy in Your Town

Many towns across New Jersey have been working to save energy and reduce the carbon footprint of municipal operations through energy audits, energy-efficient building improvements and installation of renewable energy generating technologies such as solar panels and wind turbines. But all local and state government operations combined represent only a tiny fraction of the state's total energy consumption. The great majority of energy use is by individuals and commercial enterprises.

In 2017, household consumption in New Jersey ranked third when it comes to total energy usage in the state, accounting for 25.1 percent overall, according to [the U.S. Energy Information Administration](#). Transportation ranked first, at 36.7 percent; the commercial sector accounted for 36.2 percent; and the industrial community, 12.0 percent.

Clearly, every person's actions can make a difference to reduce non-renewable energy consumption.

That's why local outreach efforts are so important. Environmental commissions and green teams can play an important role in educating residents and businesses in communities about the importance of energy conservation and how to achieve it.

When it comes to opening minds and changing behaviors, people are more likely to listen to people they know, local volunteers whose only agenda is the welfare of their community and their planet.

## NJ Energy Facts

- In 2018, natural gas and nuclear power together provided 94% of New Jersey's utility-scale electricity net generation.
- New Jersey was the nation's sixth-largest producer of electricity from large- and small-scale solar PV facilities in 2018, and about 75% of the state's renewable electricity generation came from solar power.
- New Jersey's renewable portfolio standard was updated in 2018 to require that 21% of the electricity sold in the state be generated from renewable sources by 2021, 35% by 2025, and 50% by 2030.
- About 75% of New Jersey households rely on natural gas as their primary heating fuel, about 13% use electric heat, and slightly more than 10% depend on petroleum products. The rest use other fuels, including wood, or no fuel at all. Nearly 50% of household energy costs goes to space heating.

## Spreading the Word about Saving Energy

ANJEC can provide your EC with resources and tools to educate and inspire people to save energy, money and reduce climate-changing impacts of greenhouse gases caused by nonrenewable power generation. Many people are not aware of the compelling reasons to save energy, or the host of financial incentives available to help pay for energy-smart changes. Contact [ANJEC](#) for ideas, techniques, resources and sample materials you can

use locally to raise awareness, provide useful information and promote energy consumption.

## **NJ and Federal Programs**

- [Residential Programs](#) The New Jersey Clean Energy program offers a number of incentives to homeowners from appliance rebates to financial assistance for energy efficient upgrades through the Home Performance with Energy Star program.
- [Business Programs](#) The New Jersey Clean Energy Business programs include - New Jersey SmartStart Buildings, Direct Install, Pay for Performance and multifamily programs. A variety of additional incentives are available for improving the energy-smart improvements to existing facilities, both large and small.
- [Federal Tax Credits for Energy Efficiency](#) Residential renewable energy tax credits are currently available only for fuel cells, small wind turbines, and geothermal heat pumps through 2021.

## **PSE&G Programs**

PSEG offers a free home [energy analyzer](#) which is an interactive, easy way to start saving energy and money. In just five minutes, you can take a Home Energy Assessment and learn how your household uses energy. You will also get personalized recommendations to make your home more energy efficient. Check with PSEG for other current incentive programs.

## **New Jersey Natural Gas**

- [Save Green Program](#) offers enhanced incentives (over and above those offered through NJ's Clean Energy Program) and 0% financing for home energy audits and recommended energy-saving improvements.
- [Conserve to Preserve Dashboard](#) offers an online tool that lets consumers to compare their home energy use to homes of similar size and track the results of their conservation efforts.
- [Other information available from NJNG](#)

## **South Jersey Gas Programs**

South Jersey Gas offers [home energy assessment](#) at a reduced cost to learn ways to save energy and money.

## **Other**

- [US DOE Energy Savers Tips on Saving Energy and Money at Home](#)  
US Department of Energy updated 2017 Energy Saver guide offers tips for saving money and energy at home and on the road.
- [Alliance to Save Energy](#)  
Energy Hogs program offers energy conservation tools, tip sheets and online computer games for kids.