

Three ways to save on your next energy-efficiency project

Making energy-efficient improvements to your home or business sometimes requires higher up-front equipment costs, but the savings on your electric bill can be significant. Here are three ways to cut the initial costs of your next energy-efficient project:

- 1. Utilize incentive funds from LES' Sustainable Energy Program:** This year, \$2.5 million is available for residential and business customers making energy-efficiency improvements through LES' Sustainable Energy Program, or SEP. Residential and commercial projects eligible for incentives include, but are not limited to, high-efficiency heat pumps and air conditioners, whole-house and facility sealing, and insulation and heat pump water heaters. Incentive funds are available to customers on a first-come, first-served basis.

Since the program's founding in 2009, LES customers have accessed over \$32 million in SEP incentives through 25,000 projects. This has saved more than 151,000 megawatt-hours of energy, or the equivalent annual electric use of 15,000 single-family homes.

- 2. Utilize incentive funds to purchase air source heat pumps from the City of Lincoln:** Electric heat pumps are more energy efficient than other heating and cooling systems, keeping your home comfortable year-round. They also reduce your household's greenhouse gas emissions.

New this year, Lincoln residents are eligible for a \$1,000 City of Lincoln-funded incentive toward the purchase of an air source heat pump with a SEER2 rating of 15.2 and an EER2 rating of 12.0. Only single-family homes are eligible for these funds, and they must be used to replace an existing system. This

incentive may be combined with the \$800 incentive from LES' SEP for even more savings. Funds for this incentive are available until Aug. 31, 2024, or until funds are expended, whichever comes first.

- 3. Utilize available tax credits for energy-efficient equipment:** Residential customers can receive additional tax credits for installing select equipment. This includes:
 - a. Thirty percent, up to \$1,200, for whole-house and facility sealing and insulation.
 - b. Thirty percent, up to \$2,000, for high-efficiency heat pumps and air conditioners.
 - c. Thirty percent, up to \$2,000, for heat pump water heaters.

Visit [Energystar.gov/about/federal_tax_credits](https://energystar.gov/about/federal_tax_credits) for further tax information. LES recommends consulting with a tax professional on qualifying equipment and tax deduction details.

Visit [LES.com/SEP](https://les.com/SEP) for complete incentive descriptions and a list of participating LES trade allies who are eligible to provide on-bill energy-efficiency incentives for qualifying equipment and services.





Mark your energy use as 100% renewable with RECs

Renewable Energy Certificates, or RECs, can help you prioritize the use of renewable energy resources. One REC legally conveys the environmental attributes of one megawatt-hour of electricity generated from renewable energy sources, such as solar or wind power facilities. Purchasing RECs helps to support renewable energy and allows REC holders to officially claim their home or business' energy was sourced from 100% renewable energy.

LES customers can purchase RECs for just \$0.00206/kWh, and while supplies last, LES matches each REC purchased by a customer with a free REC from our federal hydropower allocation. With the match, the REC price translates to about \$1 per month for an average Lincoln-area home, which appears on your monthly LES bill. There is also a one-time enrollment fee of \$10.

Being smart with your energy use has never been easier than it is today. Learn more and enroll in LES' REC program at [LES.com/REC](https://les.com/REC).

Nebraska Severe Weather Awareness Week is March 25-29

March marks the beginning of spring, often bringing severe weather with it. Before the storm strikes, make sure you're prepared in the case of a power outage.



Update your info with LES. LES' outage reporting system, PowerLine, matches your phone number to your service address, giving LES the information needed to dispatch crews and restore service as quickly as possible. Visit [LES.com/Report](https://les.com/Report) to keep your information up-to-date and avoid reporting an outage at an old address.



Put together an emergency kit. Start with the essentials: food (bottled water and nonperishable food items), light (flashlight or lantern), and a way to stay informed (a battery-operated radio or TV). Don't forget the extra batteries!



Know how to report an outage. LES has two ways for you to report an outage: online at [LES.com/Report](https://les.com/Report) or over the phone via PowerLine at **888.365.2412**. Keep an eye on LES' outage map and social media to stay informed.

Spring cleaning for energy savings

Did you know spring cleaning can help you save energy and reduce your environmental impact? While you're chasing those dust bunnies around, consider the following tips to make your home more energy-efficient:

- **Vacuum refrigerator coils.** Dust buildup on refrigerator coils causes the unit to run less efficiently.
- **Seal your windows.** Look for cracks around the edge or loose panes while cleaning windows, which can lead to air leaks. Seal air leaks by caulking around windows.
- **Dust light bulbs.** Dust accumulation blocks a considerable amount of light. Wipe off bulbs to get more light for your energy dollar. Replace incandescent bulbs with high-efficiency LEDs.
- **Check sliding doors.** If your home has a sliding glass door, clean the track. Dirt buildup can damage the door's seal, creating gaps where air can escape.
- **Operate on a full load.** During spring cleaning, you may have more laundry and dishwashing than usual. Make sure these appliances are fully loaded before running them to ensure you get the most out of your energy use.



For more energy-saving tips, visit [LES.com](https://les.com) and follow us on social media.