



Electrify Your Home – Plan Ahead

A Guide for Wilmette Residents

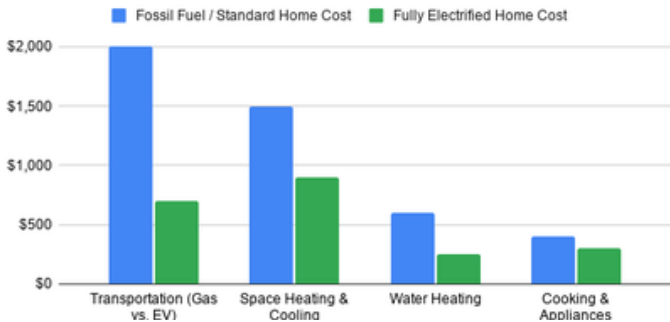
Electrifying your home means replacing systems or appliances that use natural gas or other fossil fuels with electric ones.



The Benefits of Electrification

- **Intuitive and Advanced:** Modern electric equipment heats, cools, and cooks more effectively with new technology.
- **Better Indoor Air Quality:** Moving away from gas appliances reduces indoor pollutants.
- **Lower Energy Use:** Heat pumps and induction cooking are highly efficient technologies.
- **Cost Savings:** High-efficiency electric equipment can reduce energy costs over time, especially with rebates and tax credits.
- **Lower Emissions:** Electricity has the opportunity to be replaced with renewable energies, and therefore usage of electricity is less than the direct usage of fossil fuels, thus reducing household greenhouse gas emissions.

Annual Household Savings - Fossil Fuel vs Fully Electrified Home



Sources: Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy. (2023). Electric vehicle benefits and considerations. U.S. Department of Energy. energy.gov
International Energy Agency. (2022). The future of heat pumps: How ultra-efficient technologies can secure energy transitions. IEA Publications. [iea.org](https://www.iea.org)
Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and International Renewable Energy Agency

Plan Ahead for the “Big Five” Upgrades

- **Water Heater** – Heat pump water heater
- **Stove/Oven** – Electric oven, or Induction cooktop and range
- **Dryer** – Electric/heat pump clothes dryer
- **HVAC** – Heat pump (heating & cooling)
- **Car** – Level 2 EV charger

Your Home Electrification Roadmap

Simple steps to a more efficient, all-electric home



Improve efficiency first

Start with the building envelope



Insulation & air sealing



Efficient windows



LED lighting



Low-flow fixtures



Outcome: Use less energy—and save money.



Check electrical readiness

Confirm your home can support the plan



Panel check



Load assessment



Plan circuits & upgrades



Outcome: Make sure your home is ready.



Replace & electrify over time

Use equipment age and priorities to set the pace

NOW - 2 YEARS



Heat-pump water heater
Induction cooktop

NOW - 5 YEARS



Heat-pump HVAC
Heat-pump clothes dryer
Electric vehicle charger



Outcome: Upgrade over time, at your pace.

Good first move: a whole-home energy audit. Planning or pre-wiring early can reduce disruption.

Source: Adapted from the phases defined by Rewiring America

1. Start with efficiency.

Air sealing, insulation, and weatherization helps future electric equipment perform better.

2. Assess your electrical capacity.

Contact an electrician or qualified contractor for an electrical panel assessment before major upgrades. Some homes may need a panel upgrade, i.e. from 100A to 200A service.

3. Prioritize the biggest opportunities.

Common first steps: heat pump water heater, heat pump dryer, induction stovetop, heat pump HVAC, and EV charger.

4. Replace equipment over time.

Many homeowners electrify gradually as water heaters, dryers, stoves, air conditioning, and cars reach end of life.

5. Check incentives before you buy.

Rebates, financing, and tax credits can significantly reduce project costs. Find local resources on the back page.

FAQs

Do heat pumps work in cold weather?

Yes. Modern heat pumps are designed to work efficiently in cold climates, including Illinois winters.

Will electrification decrease my overall costs?

Many electrified systems are significantly more efficient and can reduce overall energy costs over time, especially with rebates.

Can I combine Wilmette Green Homes Incentive Program with other rebates or tax credits?

In many cases, yes. Residents may also qualify for federal tax credits or utility rebates.

Why is Go Green Wilmette encouraging electrification?

Residential energy use is one of the largest contributors to community-wide emissions. Electrification helps reduce reliance on natural gas and supports long-term sustainability goals.

Wilmette Green Homes Incentive Program (GHIP)

Offers incentives for eligible projects: weatherization, heat pumps, heat pump water heaters, electric stoves, panel upgrades, EV chargers, solar, and geothermal. \$700-\$4000 reimbursement.



ComEd Resources

Information on electric equipment, home electrification options, planning tools, current rebates, discounts, financing options, and free home energy support programs.

