



Source:
Right: ReVision
Energy

Resilient Bath Initiative

**A Renter's Guide to
Sustainable Living
Efficiency, Sustainable Appliances,
Composting, Clean Energy Alternatives**

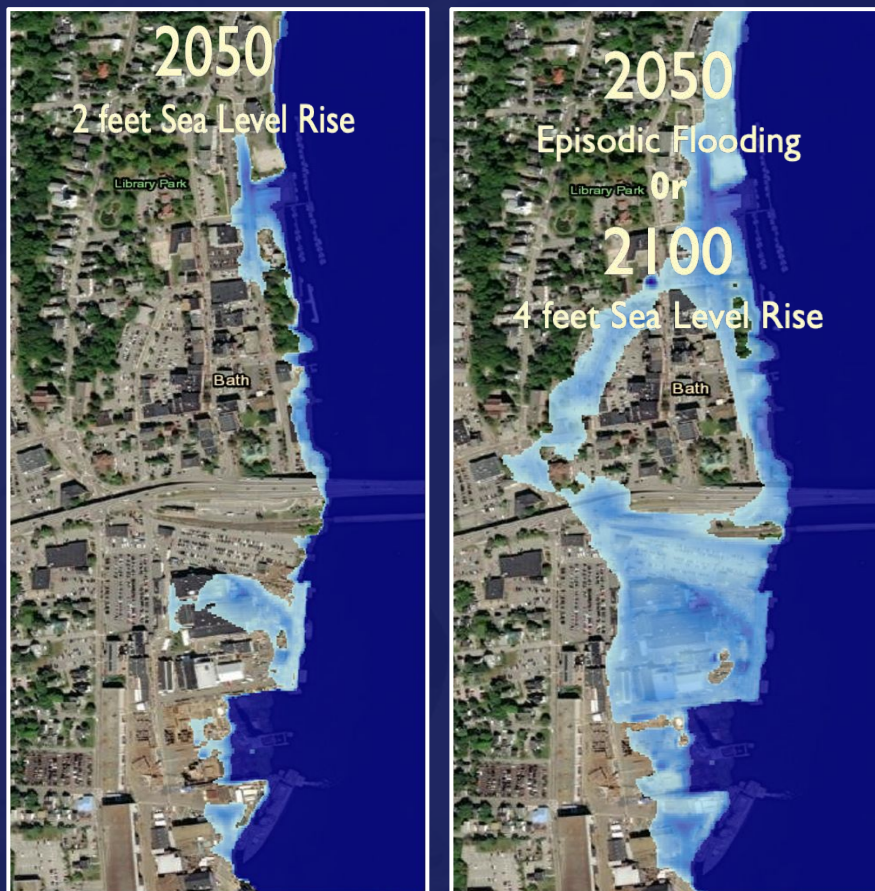


***A guide to help renters save energy & money while reducing
their impact and protecting the climate***

Bath Climate Action Commission

WHY IT MATTERS

Below are renderings of potential **flooding** and increased **storm event** impacts in Bath. The image on the left is a level of flooding that we already see from occasional **high tides** and **storm surge** events. By 2050, those occasional events will have become our **normal** everyday high tide. When one of those same high tide events happens on top of that amount of sea level rise, it will look like the image on the right. In *Maine Won't Wait*, the state's climate council recommends committing to manage **1.5 feet of sea-level rise by 2050 and 3.9 feet by 2100**.

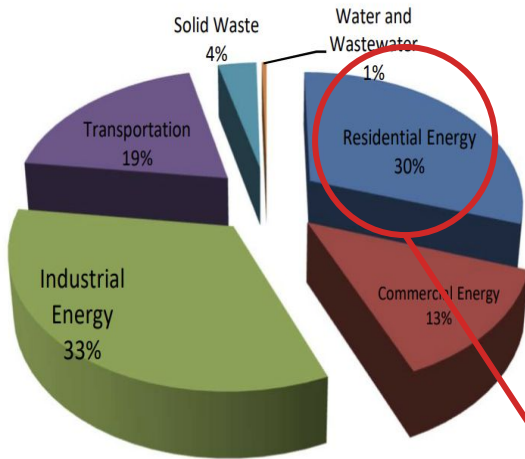


<https://coast.noaa.gov/slr/> accessed 2 July 2021.

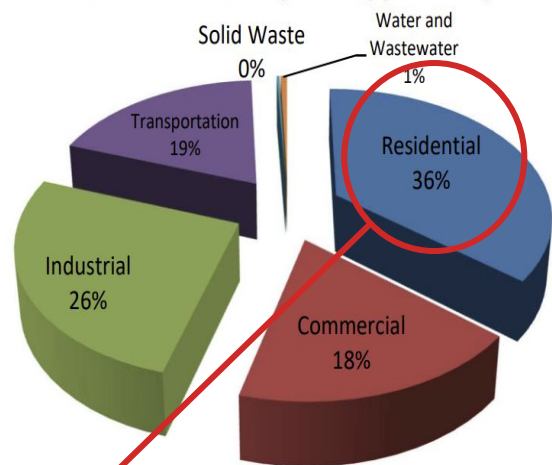
A **transition** is taking place throughout the world, country, and state towards electrifying our systems, making them more energy efficient, and encouraging more renewable energy integration into our grid to combat climate change. The **City of Bath** wants to be a **leader** as this transition takes place in Maine, helping our community become a **healthier**, more **equitable** and **resilient** place to call home.

WHY IT MATTERS

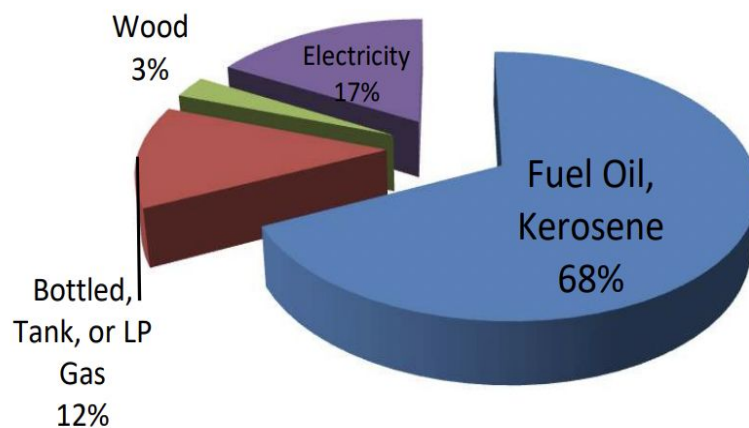
2018 Bath Community Emissions by Sector



2018 Bath Community Energy Use by Sector



2018 Residential Building Emissions by Source



In 2018, CO₂ emissions related to residential housing in Bath accounted for **30 percent** of City emissions, making residential the *second largest* emitting sector as well as the sector with the *highest* energy usage at **36 percent**. Reducing household emissions is vital to keeping climate change in check, saving on energy costs, and ensuring a more healthy community for all.



Source: Main Street Maine

Where to begin

The Bath Climate Action Commission recognizes that being a renter presents challenges to being able to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase energy efficiency at home. This resource is meant to be a guide for renters looking for ways they can reduce their impact and help make Bath a safer, healthier, and more resilient place to live.

Bath Climate Action Commission

Energy saving tips

As a renter, you have the power to change *how* you use your energy. Below are some tips to capitalize on saving energy through simple, everyday actions.

Clothes

- Hang clothes up to dry instead of using a dryer- this will save you money and help your clothes last longer!
- Choose cold or warm water instead of hot when washing your clothes- this can reduce energy usage by half according to the [DOE](#)
- Run the clothes washer and dishwasher only when full- it uses the same amount of energy either way

Lights & Appliances



- Turn off lights when you are not using them
- Unplug appliances or electronics when they aren't in use and utilize power strips wherever possible- energy can still be consumed when appliances or electronics are plugged in or in standby mode



...and more!

- Plastic off windows to better insulate your unit- if you're a long-term renter, you could participate in a [WindowDressers](#) event
- Turn your thermostat down- turning it down just 7-10 degrees from its normal setting could add up to 10 percent a year in savings ([DOE](#))
- Install faucet aerators- a cheap and easy installation to save money and water



Discuss with your landlord

As a renter, how can I make sure I'm not wasting money on energy bills?

One of the first steps you can take to make your rented space more energy efficient is talking to your landlord about money saving improvements. See if they are open to doing an **energy audit** in the unit and looking into **air sealing** and **weatherization**.

Why should I do this?

Pinpointing where energy is being lost is a **good step** for making homes more energy efficient. An audit will help your landlord understand where energy can be saved in the unit, what energy efficiency and weatherization tools to utilize, and how that translates into **cost savings** for them and for their renters. Saving money makes for happy tenants and less vacancy.


Check out landlord resources from [Efficiency Maine](#) and share the resources below with your landlord:

Resources: [Efficiency Maine Energy Assessment](#), [Do it yourself resources](#), Find an [Efficiency Maine Registered Vendor](#) near you

Rebates: [Energy Assessment w/ Air Sealing and Insulation](#)

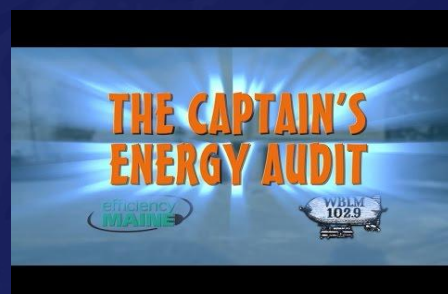


**Know
your
rights!**



Under Maine law, landlords are required to disclose a unit's energy usage from the last 12 months. This could be a good conversation starter to discuss energy efficiency measures!

**Watch this video to learn
more about the process of
an energy audit**



Update to LED light bulbs



In most circumstances, replacing light bulbs falls under the tenants responsibility. This is a **great opportunity** for renters to take energy efficiency into their own hands! LED light bulbs are **83 percent more efficient** than a traditional incandescent and **75 percent more efficient** than CFLs. **Replacing*** the bulbs in your unit with **LEDs** can save you money on electricity and replacement costs as LEDs have an average lifespan of 34 years compared to 1.4 years for incandescent and 14 years for CFLs.

Check out the pricing resource below to see what **deals** your local stores offer for LEDs. Talk to your landlord about supporting the investment in LED bulbs and if they are willing to reimburse you.

*Hold on to the old bulbs to put back and remember to take the LED bulbs with you when you move out if your landlord isn't on board with investing in or reimbursing you for LEDs.

Resources: [LED Information](#) helps you calculate LED energy savings for your unit and provides additional information about LEDs.

Pricing: [LED discounted prices](#)

	Incandescent	Halogen	CFL	LED
				
Annual cost of operation/ bulb*	\$9.64	\$6.94	\$2.41	\$1.64

Source: Efficiency Maine

Compost

Composting is a simple way to reduce your waste being sent to the landfill and the emissions associated with that waste. When waste breaks down in the landfill, it produces methane and CO₂, both greenhouse gases. In 2018, solid waste accounted for 3 percent of City emissions. Reducing this waste stream is very important for reducing overall emissions and saving space in the landfill.

There are two composting options available for Bath renters:

Curbside Pick Up

Garbage to Garden provides customers with a 5 gallon bucket to collect their compostable waste and every week they come by to empty the bucket for you.



Drop Off Site

The City of Bath has partnered with Garbage to Garden to offer two *free* compost drop off sites in Bath. Simply collect your compost scraps and bring them to a drop off site when your container is full!



Locations:

1. Bath Public Works, 450 Oak Grove Avenue
2. KELT's LOCAL garden, Lamont Street

If you have the capability at your rental unit, utilize your own backyard compost! The City is giving away 100 FREE backyard compost bins. To get yours, fill out this [form](#). For information on how to start your backyard compost, check out this [brochure](#). Ecomaine also has some great resources, [here](#).

Consider more sustainable appliances

Sustainable appliances are those that don't use fossil fuels (gas, propane) to run and are as energy efficient as possible. ENERGY STAR® appliances meet strict energy efficiency standards set by the **U.S. EPA**. These appliances can range from clothes washers and dryers to refrigerators, freezers, dishwashers, and air filters. Newer appliances in general will also offer energy savings compared to older models.

For you:

For appliances that you are responsible for, let them run their course, but when it's time to find new ones, **transition to more energy efficient models**. Look at the appliance energy consumption and choose the one that will consume the least amount, which will result in **more savings for you**. Look for ENERGY STAR® ratings for appliances like washers, dryers, window AC units, microwaves, dehumidifiers, coffee makers, or toasters. You can also check the energy usage for electronics such as TV's and computers to ensure you're saving money throughout your unit.

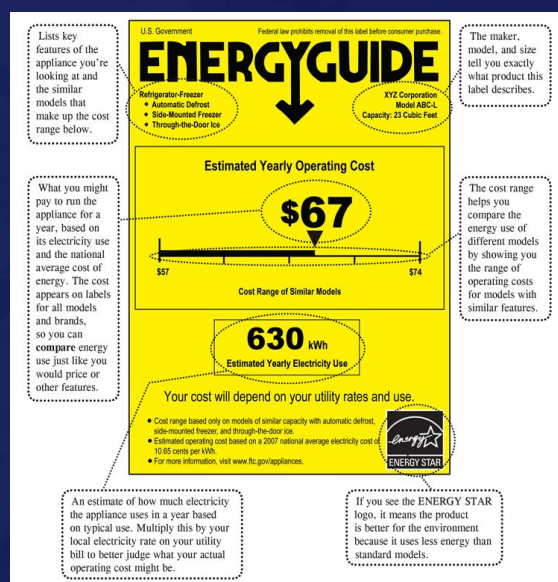
For your landlord:

For appliances that the landlord is responsible for, when one needs replacing, **ask your landlord** to consider a more **sustainable, energy efficient** appliance. Share the resources with them below.

Resources: [ENERGY STAR®](#), [Efficiency Maine Appliance Solutions](#)

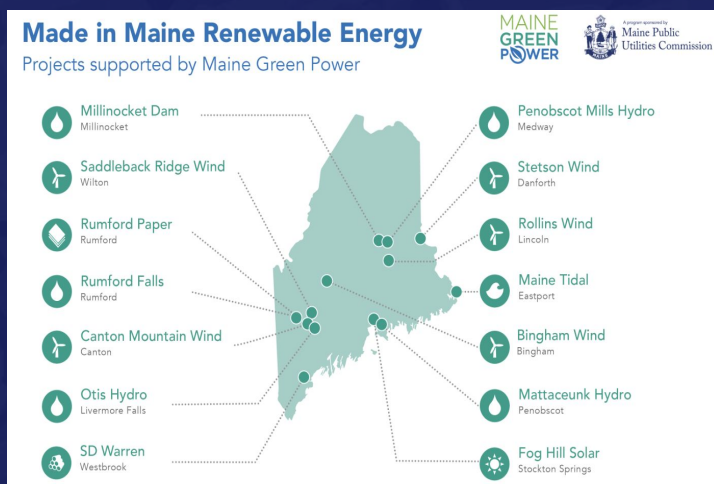
Rebates: Visit [ENERGY STAR®](#) and click on the appliance of interest. Then, type in your zip code to find local and national rebates.

Click the image to enlarge and learn more about EnergyGuide labels →



Explore renewable energy options

If you want to power your home using renewable energy, renters have a couple options. These include buying “green power” from your power company or investing in community solar farms.



Where do I start?

If you'd like to purchase renewable energy from CMP, [Maine Green Power](#) allows you to buy clean energy without disruption to your normal service. For just a few extra dollars a month, your money helps invest in more renewable energy projects in Maine and you receive Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) on your utility bill. [Community Solar](#) gives renters two options to get power from solar. You can **own** panels within the solar farm, which are eligible for [financial incentives](#). Another more cost-effective option is to **subscribe** to power from the solar farm, which requires no upfront costs or long-term commitment. In Maine, community solar subscribers can save between **5-15 percent** off electricity costs. [Maine Community Solar](#) or [EnergySage](#) can help you get started!

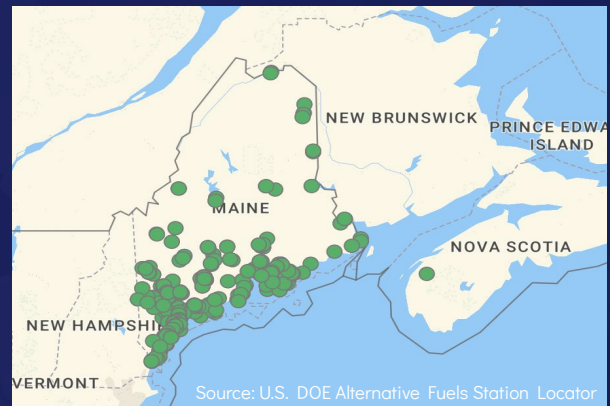
Click the image to
watch ReVision
Energy webinars
about solar!



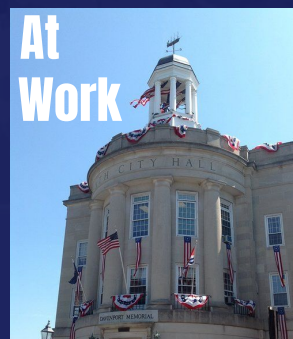
Click the image to
watch a video about
how Maine Green
Power works.

EV Charging

Being a renter presents its own challenges to owning and charging an EV. Below are some alternatives to having a charger at home.



Using a standard outlet, you can charge your EV with the **Level 1** cord that comes with your vehicle purchase.



Efficiency Maine

provides resources for businesses looking to install EV charging stations for employees and customers. If your work doesn't have one, share these resources with your employer.



The City of Bath has one set of EV charging stations at **15 Commercial St.** right by the train station/visitor center, with plans for more in the works. There is currently no time limit to charge your EV. Check out other local charging stations, [here](#).



The [Alternative Fueling Station Locator](#) shows you where you can find charging stations throughout the state (or country). It gives specific details for each station including: address, level of charger, number of chargers, and type of connector. The Alternative Fueling Station app is available on [iPhone](#) and [Android](#).

Additional Resources

- Do you qualify for LIHEAP (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program)? Find out, [here](#).
- Read more about Maine Green Power and Community Solar and which option is right for you
- This worksheet from **Rewiring America** helps you identify what other energy efficiency options you may have as a renter
- For additional resources and rebate information, visit efficiencymaine.com

For more information:

Visit our website
cityofbath.com/ClimateActionCommission
for updates on community events
and resources!

