

EIGHT STEPS TO ELECTRIFY YOUR HOME

For Single Family Home Owners

Reduce emissions, improve your indoor air quality and lower your energy bills by upgrading to electric equipment. These steps may not be in the same order for every project. You will likely revisit some steps as you develop your project.



1. Try a home energy assessment program.

Using a home energy assessment allows you to better understand your home's energy usage and receive personalized recommendations on how to increase efficiency and energy savings.

- [HomeIntel](#) is a free program for PG&E and MCE customers with smart meters who have lived in their home for at least a year. HomeIntel provides a report of your energy use and a personal energy coach gives specific energy reduction recommendations and monthly progress reports.
- [Quit Carbon](#) is another free program funded by contractor referrals that provides an advisor to review your home and your priorities to help you build an electrification plan to increase energy savings. They will then refer you to a vetted contractor and assist with any questions you have as you develop your project.
- [BayREN Home Energy Score](#) conducts an in-person home energy assessment for a fee. Each Home Score report details what upgrades can be made to increase efficiency. BayREN provides a \$200 rebate and typical cost is between \$200-500.



2. Determine your electrical capacity.

Determining whether you can work with the current capacity or if you need an electrical panel upgrade is an important step for electrification. Most homes will have 100 amps or more, which is usually sufficient for electrifying. Use the resource below to find ways to optimize your capacity and calculate your load to determine whether a panel upgrade is necessary for your project.

- [Redwood Energy – Watt Diet Calculator](#)



3. Look at incentives and rebates.

There are many incentives available for electric equipment upgrades and sometimes they can be combined! Check out Switch is On for a comprehensive list of incentives and rebates in your area, or Electrify Marin for local rebates for replacing gas appliances with efficient electric appliances in Marin County. You can also discuss how to apply for these rebates with your contractor.

- [Switch Is On](#)
- [Electrify Marin](#)
- Tip: Consider taking pictures of gas connections and your current equipment (including serial numbers). Sometimes it's required for incentive programs, and it demonstrates what you have before it's removed.



EIGHT STEPS TO ELECTRIFY YOUR HOME



4. Develop a project scope.

What equipment do you want to upgrade to be electric? What is your motivation or priority – do you need to replace an appliance, or do you want to make your house more energy efficient? What is your budget? Draft your scope before interviewing contractors.

- Need ideas? Check out [Marin Green Home Tour](#) or [East Bay Green Homes Tour](#)
- [Electrify Everything Booklet](#) – Review the checklist of electric upgrade options
- [Redwood Energy Pocket Guide to All Electric Retrofits of Single Family Homes](#)



5. Decide on your appliance options.

Energy usage can vary based on the model of the appliance. Selecting a few models you are interested in is a good way to prepare for consulting with a contractor and determining whether you can use existing capacity or if you will need a panel upgrade.

- [Redwood Energy Pocket Guide to All Electric Retrofits of Single Family Homes](#) - see Product Guide on page 40
- [PG&E Top Energy Products](#)
- [ENERGYSTAR Product Finder](#)



6. Create a list of questions for your contractor.

Before reaching out to contractors, it's helpful to have a list of questions to ask based on the type of upgrade that you want. These questions could be about their past experiences with this type of installation, their process, or about your specific project.

- Rewiring America's [Electrify Everything Home Guide](#) has recommended questions to ask based on project scope. See pages 23-25, 40-41, 75-77, 84-85.
- Tip: Take notes of their answers when you interview them.



7. Find a licensed contractor.

Generally, it's best to get at least 3 separate quotes before making a decision (unless using QuitCarbon). Consider asking for referrals from friends, neighbors, or coworkers. Use the resources below to find a contractor in your area and check their license status.

- [Switch Is On](#)
- [CA Contractor License Check](#)



8. Obtain permits and inspections.

The City of San Rafael offers a streamlined permit process, with live online and in-person assistance. In most cases, you can get permits within a few days and avoid fines and penalties later. Work with your contractor and visit your local jurisdiction's website to determine which permits are needed for your project.

- [City of San Rafael - Building Permits](#)

Scan the QR code to visit the resources attached in this document and visit City of San Rafael's [Green Building and Electrification](#) webpage for more information.

