

HELP IS AVAILABLE!

Fuel Assistance

If you meet income qualifications, you may be able to get energy and/or weatherization assistance.



Call (608) 356-8887 or go to esiwi.com to start the process.

You may be eligible for several programs that can offer immediate help and make your home less expensive long-term.

Focus on Energy

You may receive free products like LED light bulbs, faucet aerators, and other products to save energy and money by calling (800) 762-7077 or going to focusonenergy.com.

You can also find a list of qualified energy auditors and contractors on their site. Focus on Energy is funded by your utility payments.

Habitat for Humanity Wisconsin River Area

Habitat offers free assessments and zero-interest repayment loans for repairs to qualifying homes. Their ReStores also sell affordable recycled and overstock building materials. Call (608) 448-2888 or visit hfhwisconsinriver.org.

Your Public Library

A great place for all kinds of information! Call (608) 356-6166 or visit them at 230-4th Avenue in downtown Baraboo during open hours.

FURTHER STEPS

If you are able to spend additional dollars, you may wish to look into an energy audit. Insulation and air sealing, replacing appliances and/or leaky windows, or adding solar can make a difference.



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GET IN TOUCH

PoweredUpBaraboo.org

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Follow us on 

Powered Up Baraboo is a 501(c)3 non-profit that seeks to increase the use of renewable energy and environmentally sustainable practices in the Baraboo and Sauk County area through education, advocacy, grants/fundraising, and volunteer efforts.



Lowering
Your
Utility Bill

*Help for home
owners & renters*



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LOWERING YOUR UTILITY BILL

Whether you rent or own your home, there are a few things that can help....



Clean and Dust

- Dust on light bulbs dims them and makes them hotter, shortening bulb life.
- Clean heating registers or radiators, making them more efficient; close registers in unused rooms.
- If you have a clothes dryer, clean out the vent pipe annually. Accumulated lint makes a dryer inefficient and can pose a fire hazard.
- Clean any accessible coils behind or under your refrigerator or freezer.

Water Use

- Adjust the temperature on your water heater to 120 degrees. Lower than this may allow harmful bacteria to breed; higher than this wastes energy.
- Drain a few gallons from the bottom of your water heater a few times a year to get rid of sediment.
- Use less water: Set a timer for your showers; don't run water while brushing teeth, etc.

Phantom Power

Many appliances draw power even when they're not "on." Coffee makers, TVs and computers are common culprits. When you can, unplug them.

"Smart" surge protectors are available from Focus on Energy and can turn off auxiliary components of entertainment systems or computers when not in use.

Borrow an Electricity Usage Monitor

Check out one of these from your public library. You use it by plugging it into a wall socket and plugging an appliance into it. It tells you how much energy your appliance is actually using. Common brands include "Kill-A-Watt" and "Watts Up."

Shut Your Windows

Make sure your windows are all latched during the heating season.

If you can afford to spend a few dollars now to save some dollars long-term, start with a tour of your home.



Attic: If you can get safely into your attic (*be careful to step only on firm structure*), here are some problems to look for:

- Insulation less than 16" in depth.
- Compacted or rodent-infested insulation.
- Indications of air leakage, such as discolored insulation, gaps around pipes or frost on the underside of the roof.
- Bathroom vent fans with flexible ducting (rigid is best) or ducting terminating in the attic instead of outside.
- Recessed light fixtures that penetrate into the attic space and are not sealed with an insulating dome.
- Lack of venting along roof ridge and near the lower edge of the roof, or lack of light coming through vents.

Basement:

- The area above the foundation wall and below the first floor is generally the second leakiest area of a house. Rigid foam insulation totaling 3-4" combined with expanding foam can both seal and insulate.
- Basement windows are often leaky and holes in basement walls can leak a lot of air.

Other:

- Drafts indicate the need for air sealing, as does light shining in around doors and windows.
- Your bathroom fan should draw enough air to keep a piece of toilet paper sucked up against it; if not, the fan ducts may need to be cleaned or the fan replaced.



Once you've completed your tour, here are some more steps that may help:

Caulk: Caulk is cheap and effective. You can apply "invisible" caulk around your door and window trim to seal air leaks. Use a clear interior acrylic caulk (not silicone) with a fine-cut tip. Once the caulk is applied, use a wet rag to push it into the gap and wipe off the excess. Follow this up with a dry rag.

Replace door seals: The seal around doors is usually quickly and easily replaceable. The door needs to be removed to replace the seal on the bottom.

Replace light bulbs: LEDs are now available in "warm" and "cool" colors. Replacing old-fashioned bulbs with LEDs gives significant savings.

Insulate your hot water pipes: Many products are available to insulate hot water pipes, some available for free from Focus on Energy. The most important part to insulate is the first few feet of pipe after the water heater.

Change/clean your furnace filter: Furnace filters come in many types. The filters keep the furnace clean, as well as filtering the air. New or cleaned filters make the system more efficient, saving money.