

8 Tips for a Sustainable Home

What is “Sustainability”?

Sustainability is based on the principle that the essentials we need to survive depend on a healthy natural environment (think: clean air and water, healthy soil, trees for lumber, etc.). To pursue sustainability means to create the conditions under which people and nature can productively coexist and support each other. The good news is sustainability can start with you in your own home.

Incorporating sustainable practices into your home can save you money, maintain your home’s comfortability, and reduce pollution.

1 When replacing or buying new appliances, look for those that are energy efficient

- ◆ Heating, ventilation, air conditioning (HVAC) equipment are the biggest energy consumers in your home, followed closely by refrigerators and clothes dryers. Investing in energy-efficient appliances cuts energy use *and* bills.

Consumers can take advantage of numerous federal tax credits and rebates for energy-efficiency improvements and purchases.

2 Reduce your home’s energy loss

- ◆ Hire a professional to conduct an energy assessment and suggest improvements specific to your home.
- ◆ Oftentimes evaluating insulation, adding blow-in attic insulation, and sealing gaps around doors and windows are good places to start.
- ◆ Addressing energy leaks cuts your utility bills while maintaining and, in many cases, increasing your home’s comfortability.

3 Replace traditional light bulbs with LEDs

- ◆ LEDs are more energy efficient than traditional light bulbs, and swapping bulbs can be an easy first step.

4 Set a programmable thermostat

- ◆ Want to save on your energy bill? During winter, set the temperature at 68 degrees when you’re at home and up to 10 degrees cooler when you’re away.

5 Fix leaky toilets and faucets

- ◆ Leaks mean money down the drain. Water leaks can add up to hundreds of dollars on your monthly water bill.

6 Add sustainable landscaping to your yard

- ◆ Plant prairie grasses and wildflowers native to South Dakota that support pollinators and restore the state’s native plant heritage. Native plants need less watering, fertilizer, and maintenance and are more adaptable to weather and temperature extremes like droughts and floods.

7 Recycle

- ◆ Recycle:
 - ◆ Glass: jars and bottles
 - ◆ Paper: office paper, cartons, cardboard
 - ◆ Metal: cans
 - ◆ Plastic: tubs, jugs, bottles
- ◆ Place items loosely in your recycling bin. Do not tie them in plastic bags.
- ◆ Leftover paint from home projects or electronics collecting dust on the shelf can be dropped off at the City of Sioux Falls’ Household Hazardous Waste Facility. To learn more, visit siouxfalls.org/hhwf.

8 Purchase renewable energy

- ◆ Call your energy utility and ask how you can purchase renewable energy for your home.
- ◆ Or, install rooftop solar panels. There is a 30% tax credit on residential clean energy. Plus, the upfront investment can save you money over time and boost energy independence.



www.siouxfalls.org/sustainability

Visit the City of Sioux Falls’ Sustainability website for additional information or to sign up for the Sustainability Newsletter.

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