



Your Guide to Going Green

The Clean Energy Resource Teams—or CERTs—are a statewide partnership with a shared mission to connect individuals and their communities to the resources they need to identify and implement community-based clean energy projects. Great Plains Institute based program Metro CERT empowers communities and their members to adopt energy conservation, energy efficiency, and renewable energy technologies and practices for their homes, businesses, and local institutions.

NO COST ACTIONS

- 1. Set Your Thermostat Back or Forward Depending on the Season!** Eight for Eight is GREAT – in the summer, increase the temp by 8 degrees while you are out or sleeping to save! Heating and cooling make up 55% of your household dollars.
- 2. Wash Clothes in Cold Water:** Your clothes will come out clean AND may even last longer!
- 3. Take Shorter Showers:** 5 minutes is recommended. You can use a timer in the shower or shut the shower off while you are soaping up, or shaving to save water and energy!
- 4. Unplug Electronic Devices:** So many appliances are actually using energy even when they are “off”. You can unplug them or plug your appliances into a power strip and turn that off.
- 5. Turn Your Water Heater Dial to 120°:** Keep your energy bills low and your family safe.

LOW COST ACTIONS

- 1. Measure and Reduce the Amount of Energy Your Household Uses:** Utilities like Xcel Energy offer energy assessments for a small cost.
- 2. Replace Your Shower Head:** Install a high efficiency shower head for effortless savings that don't impact your comfort.
- 3. Choose Renewable Energy:** Most utilities offer a program to allow you to buy blocks of renewable energy for a small cost versus the traditional mix of fossil fuels. For Xcel Energy customers it's the Windsource program.
- 4. Find the Right Light:** Check out our Right Light Guide to find out which light bulb you should buy.
- 5. Connect to a Solar Garden:** You don't need to install solar panels to go solar. Community solar gardens are a simple way to go solar. You purchase a subscription, then soak in the rays by utilizing local offsite solar panels.

HIGH INVESTMENT ACTIONS

- 1. Insulate Your Home:** After an energy assessment it may be recommended that you seal and increase the amount of insulation in your home.
- 2. Install a High Efficiency Furnace:** There are utility rebates for high efficiency furnaces! Be sure to get an Energy Star Furnace.
- 3. Install Solar on Your Home:** Assess your solar potential. You may have a good solar resource on your roof and could be an ideal candidate for rooftop solar. This app will help you determine if you do <http://solar.maps.umn.edu/app/>.

Content provided by [Great Plains Institute](#) a proud member of Re-Amp