

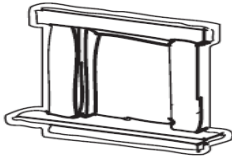
Understanding home energy upgrades

Q: What are home energy upgrades?

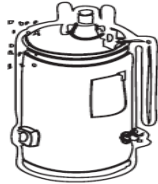
A: Also known as **retrofits**, home energy upgrades are home improvements that reduce how much heating fuel, electricity and water you use in your home. They help you save money, make your home more healthy and comfortable, reduce air pollution, and create jobs!

Q: What is common retrofit work?

A:



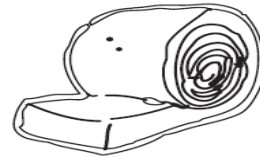
Sealing cracks around windows & doors



Repairing or replacing a boiler



Installing energy efficient lighting



Insulating walls & ceilings

Q: What problems do energy upgrades address?

A: High energy bills, mold, damp basement, cold floors in the winter, drafty rooms, dust, moisture on windows, water leaks, peeling paint, and rooms that are too hot or too cold. **The typical home wastes 20-50% of the energy it uses!** Energy upgrades reduce this waste.

Q: What is an energy assessment?

A: During an **energy assessment** (or audit) an upgrade professional:

- Pinpoints where you are using and losing electricity
- Detects air leaks, checks insulation levels, and measures harmful carbon monoxide & gas in your home
- Determines the most cost-effective ways to cut your energy costs

Q: How much will you save after performing energy upgrades in your home?

A: While results vary, homeowners often see their utility bills go down **25-33%**. That often means **\$700-\$1200 saved every year!**

Q: How will Chhaya help YOU?

A: We help eligible homeowners and renters get free energy assessments and apply for money to do the recommended home improvements. We can also help your block get other improvements, such as more street trees, and can provide other housing services such as foreclosure prevention, credit and budget counseling, and tenants rights organizing.

For more information, **contact:** Jessica Bartolini, Energy Outreach Coordinator, Chhaya Community Development Corporation, 718-478-3848, ext. 15, jessica@chhayacdc.org.



Chhaya is a non-profit HUD-approved housing counseling agency whose staff speaks Bangla, Hindi, Nepali and Urdu.
www.chhayacdc.org