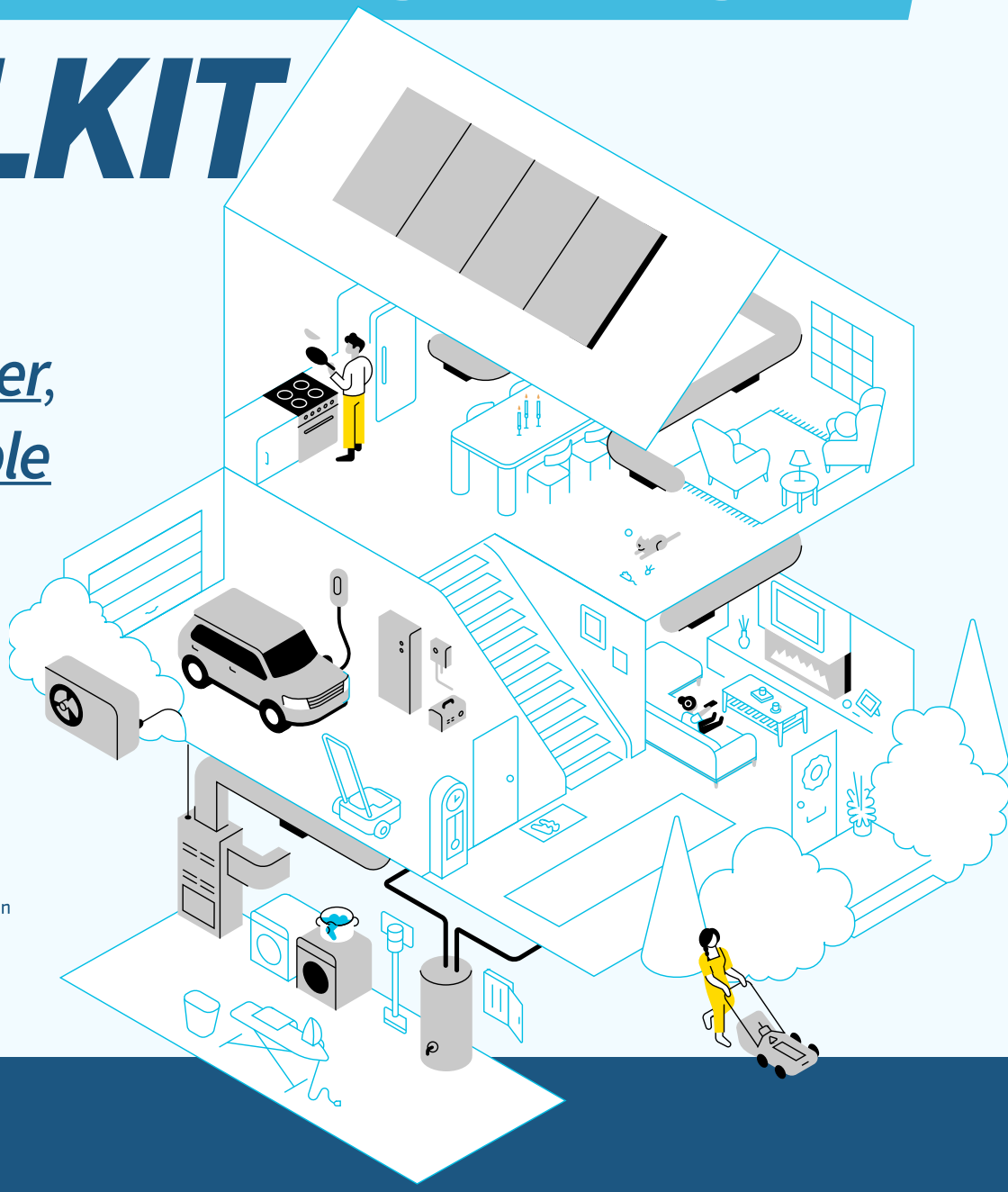
CANADA'S HOME ELECTRIFICATION TOOLKIT

Your guide to a ***cleaner, smarter, more affordable*** home



Building Decarbonization Alliance
pour la décarbonation des bâtiments

OPTIONS FOR RENTERS

Options for Renters

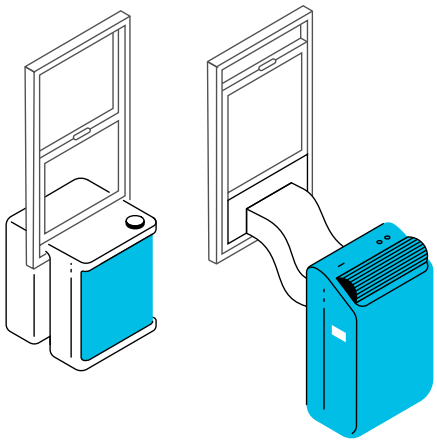
Renters and condo/strata owners generally do not have input on the types of equipment that are installed in a home, but that does not mean that they have no power to electrify their homes. There are many portable electric options for such households, and when a renter moves, they can take that equipment with them. Often these options come with co-benefits. Renters and condo/strata owners can also advocate for investments in building envelopes, in electric equipment, and in EV chargers.

Additional resources

- Make your condo EV-ready guide
- EV-ready bylaw tracker for multiunit residential buildings
- Guide to EV charging in MURBs
- How to talk to a landlord about electrification

SPACE HEATING OPTIONS

Window heat pumps:

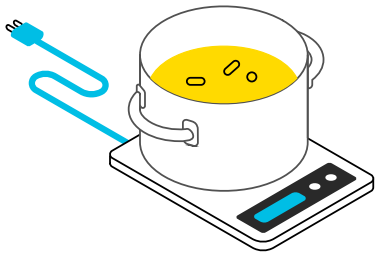


Small air source heat pump units with hoses that fit into a **window opening are now available** (see 'Space Heating' section), and versions that hang like a **saddle across a window ledge** are coming soon. These plug into a regular wall outlet and can be effective at heating a room in winter and providing cooling in summer, but they will still require another heating system for the coldest days. Keep in mind that these units will dehumidify your home as well, and units with drain pumps can help to avoid the need to empty condensate pans multiple times a day when in full use.

Some of the most compact room thermal storage units can be plugged into a regular outlet, as long as that the circuit is not used for other purposes (see 'Electric Thermal Storage' section). These are best suited to regions with time-of-use rates, where they can be charged when electricity rates are low.

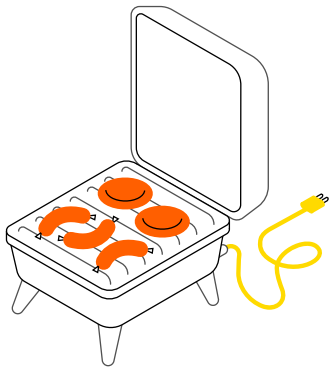
COOKING OPTIONS

Single element induction cookers:



Cost-effective options that plug into regular kitchen outlets (see 'Cooking' section). They offer fast, controlled heating with no combustion gases and easy cleanup. When combined with a countertop toaster oven, many renters may realise that they never use their gas stove.

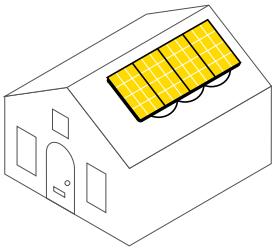
Electric barbecues:



Another great option (see 'Outdoor Equipment' section). In many cases, these can be used in places where conventional barbecues are not allowed, such as balconies. Check first that there is a convenient outlet to plug it into and that your building allows electric barbecues.

RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY

Solar panels:

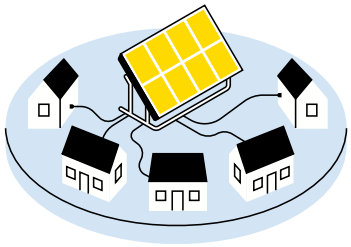


Renters and condo owners may not be able to install **solar panels** where they live, but there are still ways to use solar power or invest in solar projects (see 'Solar Power' section).

Green energy retailers:

Sell renewable electricity to renters and homeowners alike. The clean electricity you pay for is added to the grid mix and you get credit for using that fraction of clean electricity while supporting the growth of renewables.

Community solar, solar farms, and solar gardens:

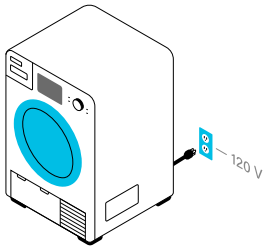


Large solar installations where community members can purchase some of the solar panels (ownership model) or purchase a fraction of the electricity generated by the installation (subscription model). Members then receive credits on their electricity bills for their share of the electricity generated by the system.

OTHER ELECTRIFICATION OR ENERGY SAVING OPTIONS

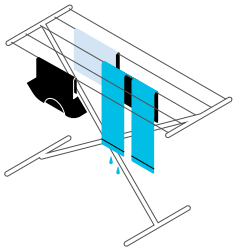
Many renters and condo/strata owners still maintain yards and driveways. Go to 'Outdoor Equipment' section for electric options for all tools for yards and driveways.

Ventless dryers:



Ventless dryers especially those that are 120V, can be added to a home and save the cost, hassles, and concerns about lingering dirt or perfumes when using shared dryers and laundromats (see 'Dryers' section).

Rack or clothesline



Drying clothes on a **rack** or **clothesline** is another way to avoid the cost and emissions from conventional gas dryers. And that fresh outdoor scent on sheets is hard to beat!

OPTIONS FOR RENTERS

Even if you cannot electrify the space and water heating equipment in your home, you can still reduce the carbon emissions from these heating systems and save money through simple measures.

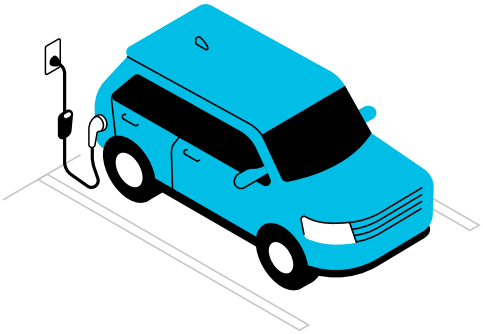
Tips for reducing gas space heating include:

- Turn down the thermostat at night or when away during the day (this is different from a heat pump where it is more efficient to keep a steady temperature);
- Ask the landlord to install a programmable or smart thermostat if one isn't already installed;
- Consider using sweaters, socks, slippers and blankets to stay warm.
- Clean or replace the furnace filter regularly;
- Apply heat shrink plastic on windows in winter and add weather stripping where possible; and
- Maximize natural warmth by opening the curtains during the day to let the sun in and closing them at night to minimize heat loss.

Tips for reducing hot water use include:

- Install low-flow showerheads and faucets
- Choose efficient appliances such as washing machines and dishwashers
- Wash clothes in cold water
- Wait until you have a full load of laundry before using the washing machine
- Fix water leaks
- Insulate hot water pipes
- Set your water heater tank's thermostat at 60°C (140°F) and use a mixing valve

EV CHARGING



Most EVs and other electric mobility devices can be charged using a regular outlet. EVs will take longer to recharge this way than with a level 2 charger, but with more than 60 km of range from an overnight charge, this may be all that you need (see 'EV chargers' section).

ADVOCATING FOR ACCESS TO ELECTRIFIED AND LOW-CARBON EQUIPMENT

In some provinces, condo or strata boards must install EV charging equipment upon request unless exemptions apply. Incentives are also available in some provinces and territories for installing EV chargers at multi-residential buildings. The first step is usually to have a discussion with the condo/strata board or property manager with the goal of submitting a formal application to the board for EV charging.

Renters and condo/strata owners can also engage with property managers or owners to highlight the benefits of building envelope upgrades and equipment electrification as well as incentives available to help finance the investments. These benefits can include lower energy use, improved indoor air quality, resilience to extreme heat events, insulation from rising carbon prices, lower insurance premiums, and reduced tenant turnover.[1]

[1] National Renewable Energy Laboratory (2023). **Unlocking the Value of Deep Energy Retrofits. Recommendations for Creating Financial Products to Reduce Building Emissions and Improve Returns to Multifamily Building Owners.** Retrieved from https://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy24osti/84912.pdf

This section is part of the Canada's Home Electrification Toolkit. The Toolkit provides clear, concise, and up-to-date information on space heating, cooking, fireplaces, home batteries and backup options, and other household equipment. It also includes tips for renters, strategies for avoiding potentially costly electrical panel upgrades, and case studies from satisfied homeowners.

ADDITIONAL SECTIONS ARE AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD BELOW:

Symbols and terms in this publication:

Upfront or operating cost (no incentives applied)

Symbol	Description
$	Up to $99
$$	$100-$999
$$$	$1,000-$9,999
$$$$	$10,000 and above

Implementation

Term	Description
Easy	Can be implemented by yourself if no electrical upgrade is required
Medium	Can be implemented by someone with DIY skills
Difficult	Generally requires a qualified electrician or other contractor

Emissions reduction potential (onsite emissions reductions using Canadian averages)

Term	Description
Low	1-9 kg CO2 per year
Medium	10-99 kg CO2 per year
High	100-999 kg CO2 per year
Very high	> 1,000 kg CO2 per year

When comparing electric to gas equipment on upfront costs, operating costs and emissions

Symbol	Description
=	Values differ by 10% or less
▽	Electric version is 10-50% lower
▼	Electric version is more than 50% lower
△	Electric version is 10-100% higher
▲	Electric version is more than 100% higher

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Visit buildingdecarbonization.ca/canadas-home-electrification-toolkit for digital downloads, updates, and other information about home electrification.

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