

# 6 Steps to Energy Efficiency

## HOW DO YOU STACK UP?

The first step in reducing energy use is to determine how much energy you are using now – for what functions – and how this use compares with others. The analysis will reveal opportunities. This review can be completed by you or by contracting a professional.

## BEHAVIORAL CHANGES

Low hanging fruit. How can your daily activities affect energy use? Do you run lights when not needed? Are your thermostat and sensors cleaned on a maintenance schedule? Is your equipment maintained for efficiency?

Renewables

## PASSIVE OPPORTUNITIES

The Sun is the greatest source of energy known to man. There are many proven techniques to capture, store and use the radiation from the Sun for space heating and liquid heating. The strategic placement of trees and shrubs can have a material effect on heating and ventilation as well as odor control.

Automation

## EFFICIENT EQUIPMENT

This ladder step deals with analysis and possible replacement your existing equipment. The goal is to accomplish more or the same output with reduced energy input.

Efficient Equipment

## AUTOMATION

This step revolves around replacing our efforts to control various energy consuming tasks with an automated system that never forgets.

Passive Opportunities

## RENEWABLES

Once all other steps are complete and energy use is reduced, power generation through solar, wind and methane digesters are good long term investments in energy independence.

Behavioral Changes

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This diagram is a proven learning tool designed to guide rural residents and especially those involved in agriculture on the steps needed to reduce energy use and gain energy independence. It intended to be used as an instructional guide, a gauge of progress and a method of how to proceed from step to step.