

Home Energy Efficiency for the Hill District

The Hill District neighborhood in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania worked with the U.S. Department of Energy through the Communities LEAP (Local Energy Action Program) pilot to explore strategies that improve residential energy efficiency, support the transition to renewable energy, and identify potential funding streams for increased neighborhood investment. Communities LEAP is supporting clean energy transitions in 24 communities across the United States that are facing energy-related challenges.

Improving Household Energy Efficiency and Lowering Costs

Energy-efficient homes and buildings use less energy for heating, cooling, and to run appliances and electronics. A home's energy efficiency can be improved by incorporating weatherization strategies, like adding insulation and sealing air leaks, and upgrading windows, doors, and appliances. Energy efficiency retrofits can reduce energy bills and support occupant health and comfort. See the graphic below for more information on improving home energy efficiency.

Solutions and technologies to address weatherization and energy efficiency are constantly advancing. Check out the U.S. Department of Energy's "Energy Saver" tool for relevant information: <https://www.energy.gov/energysaver/energy-saver>.

Hill District residents can take advantage of many programs to address needed home repairs and energy efficiency. See the back page for more information on available programs and how to access these services. *Please note that this is not a comprehensive list.*

Insulation

Insulation may be installed in many areas of your home to lower heating and cooling costs and improve comfort. Insulation should be installed by a trained contractor to ensure proper placement.

Wall insulation

Exterior walls should be insulated, including between living spaces and unheated garages.

Foundation wall and rim joist insulation

Foundation wall and rim joist insulation may be installed to insulate the above-grade floor surface or foundation walls.



Illustration by Besiki Kazaishvili, NREL.

Air sealing

Caulking and weatherstripping are simple and effective air-sealing techniques to control possible comfort and moisture problems. Areas such as attics, doors, and windows can be sealed to reduce cold or hot air leakage into your home.

Attic insulation

Attic insulation may be installed within the ceiling or roof framing cavities.

Duct sealing and insulation

Duct sealing and insulation may be installed to prevent air loss due to leaks and holes. Ducts are the network of tubes in the walls, floors, and ceilings that carry air from your home's furnace or central air conditioner to each room.

Other efficiency upgrades

- Replace old lightbulbs with LEDs.
- Upgrade water heater efficiency.
- Upgrade HVAC system efficiency.
- Upgrade windows.
- Replace old doors.

Home Repair and Energy Efficiency Support Organizations

Current as of December 2023, information subject to change in the future.

Organization Name	Key Services	Key Programs	Contact Information
ACTION-Housing Inc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home repairs • Accessibility modifications • Weatherization and energy efficiency upgrades 	Weatherization Assistance Program	Call (412) 281-2102 and/or email wxapps@actionhousing.org .
		Whole-Home Repair Program	Contact ACTION-Housing at (412) 248-0021 to complete an application over the phone. The Whole-Home Repair Program has specific application periods that can be specified by ACTION-Housing.
Urban Redevelopment Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home repairs • Accessibility modifications • Weatherization and energy efficiency upgrades 	Homeowner Assistance Programs (HAP)	HAP applications are available online at https://bit.ly/hap2023 .
		Homeowner Assistance Program for Independence (HAPI)	To request an application through the mail or by email, call (412) 255-6694 , extension 6721 or send an email to hof@ura.org .
Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home repairs • Accessibility modifications 	Affordable Housing Repair	https://rtpittsburgh.org
		Safe and Healthy Homes	Call (412) 247-2700 or email info@rtpittsburgh.org .
Habitat for Humanity of Greater Pittsburgh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home repairs • Accessibility modifications 	Home Repair Program	Complete the interest form online: https://www.habitatpittsburgh.org/interest-form . Call (412) 450-8520 extension 10.
Duquesne Light Company	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home energy assessments • Energy efficiency 	Income Eligible Energy Assessment	Call +1 (866) 282-3147 The following information will be needed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ten-digit Duquesne Light account number (located at the top of page one on your bill). • Monthly and/or yearly income of all household members. • Contact phone number(s).

Project Stakeholders

A broad coalition of stakeholders from the Hill District have supported the success of this Communities LEAP project. The stakeholder coalition included the following organizations: Hill District Consensus Group, Hill District Collaborative, Hill Community Development Corporation, Green Building Alliance, Duquesne Light Company, Pittsburgh Department of City Planning, and Pittsburgh Gateways.



For more information about Communities LEAP, visit: energy.gov/communitiesLEAP

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