Carbon emissions and energy use

LocalHousingSolutions.org includes descriptions of a number of policies that help to reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions by improving energy efficiency and siting affordable housing closer to jobs and other essential destinations.

**Brief: Reducing energy use and carbon emissions**

Reductions in energy use and carbon emissions can be achieved through home modifications and building techniques that improve residential energy efficiency. In addition, land use and zoning changes that enable higher-density, mixed-use development reduce the need for residents to drive to take care of daily activities and the length of necessary car trips. This brief describes how policy tools in the Housing Policy Library can be used to reduce energy use and decrease greenhouse gas emissions. [Read the brief](#)

**Selected local housing policies**

- Density bonuses
- Zoning changes to allow for higher residential density
- Reforms to construction standards and building codes
- Housing rehabilitation codes
- Energy-efficiency standards
- Energy-efficiency retrofits
- Housing and building codes
- Weatherization assistance

**Related content**

- [Resources on expanding access to public transit](#)
- [Issue brief: Encouraging walkable mixed-use development](#)
- [Issue brief: Improving housing quality and safety](#)
- [Housing Policy Library section: Reducing energy use and costs](#)
- [Explore external resources for carbon emissions and energy use](#)