

Affordable Green Home Upgrades That Add Value

By Tim Smith modernize.com



These days, "green" home updates are very popular, especially among new home buyers. Not only can green updates help homeowners save money on their energy bills, but they can reduce a household's carbon footprint and add significant value in the process. Of course, environmentally-friendly home upgrades also tend to be more expensive than their conventional counterparts. Fortunately, there are some affordable green updates you can make to your home that will still add significant value.

Programmable or Smart Thermostats

One of the absolute best green home upgrades you can make is to install either a programmable or a smart thermostat in your home. A programmable thermostat can cost as little as about €29, but allows you to set your thermostat for different temperatures throughout the day, thus saving you money on your heating and cooling bills in the process.

With a smart thermostat, you'll pay more (typically about €83), but you'll save the same features of a programmable thermostat with the added convenience of being able to control your home's heating and cooling remotely.

Duct Work Insulation

Another excellent and energy-efficient upgrade to consider at your home is that of insulating your home's duct work, if you haven't done so already. Many homes have ducts and vents that are exposed, which reduces energy efficiency as air travels from the home's furnace or air conditioner to various locations throughout the house.

Duct insulation can be a DIY job, so it doesn't need to be very expensive at all. Furthermore, homeowners may want to consider additional energy upgrades in the form of added insulation throughout the home. This may include adding insulation to attic spaces and rooms above garages that may otherwise not have very good insulation.

Replace Windows and Exterior Doors

Finally, you might be surprised at just how much of a difference new exterior doors can make in terms of energy-efficiency. This is especially true if your current exterior doors are made out of metal or steel, which don't do a good job of keeping exterior air outside the home. Switching to a wood door or other energy-efficient door can help homeowners save money on heating and cooling bills while adding resale value in the process.

According to the [US Environmental Protection Agency](#), replacing your doors and windows can lower your energy bill by 7 to 15 percent. So if you have drafty, old windows, you could be throwing money out the window every month.

Making "green" updates around your home doesn't have to drain your wallet. Give some (or all) of these three affordable energy-efficient updates a try at your home and see just how much of a difference this can make in terms of your energy bills and overall home value as well.

To learn more about how to upgrade your home, please visit modernize.com.