

# Energy Efficiency is a Right Now Solution

## How does EE help Virginia families?

- The cheapest form of energy is the one never used. While generating facilities- no matter the source- can take years to permit and build, energy efficiency measures can be installed now.
- Weatherization saves low-income homeowners an average of \$372 per year in energy costs.
- Energy Star Appliances save between 20-50% on energy bills over older, less efficient appliances.

**Jobs: 76,685 EE jobs in Virginia**  
**(E4TheFuture 2024)**

## What about data centers?

- Data Centers can be made more efficient, too. EE measures can make the building more efficient, and even improve some processes, such as IT needs and cooling.
- Demand response programs can address load growth.
  - Ex. virtual power plants

Visit [VAEEC.org](https://VAEEC.org) or contact the Virginia Energy Efficiency Council at [info@vaeec.org](mailto:info@vaeec.org) to learn more.

## What is Energy Efficiency?

Any appliance, program, or behavior that uses less energy for the same result, which in turn cuts energy bills, reduces pollution, and makes buildings more resilient.

## Key Terms

### EE Measures

Any changes to a structure that use less energy. These include LED lights, improved insulation, weather stripping around windows and doors, ENERGY STAR appliances, and smart devices.

### Weatherization

Started in the 1970s, the federal Weatherization Assistance Program provides no-cost energy efficiency and health and safety improvements to low-income homes. Services often include changing out old, inefficient appliances for new, safer models, adding insulation, and repairing ventilation issues.

### Demand Response Programs

Provide consumer incentives to encourage shifting electricity use away from peak (e.g., waking up, getting home from work, extreme hot and cold snaps).



# Powering Virginia's Future

## Why Does EE Matter?

A typical household saves \$576 per year on their energy and water bills as a result of appliance and equipment standards. ([U.S. Department of Energy](#)).

- The average U.S. household spends \$2,000 annually on energy, and 10%-20% of that is wasted through drafts, leaks, and outdated systems.
- Energy efficiency saves Americans ~\$1.4 billion every year ([ACEEE, 2023 prices](#)), making EE a valuable tool in the face of soaring electrical costs.

## EE Strengthens Our Economy

"Energy efficiency is America's most abundant energy resource." ([ACEEE, Alliance to Save Energy & BCSE](#)).

- Since 1980, advances in energy efficiency have reduced U.S. demand 66%.
- "We've built buildings and appliances that save more, do more, go faster, and last longer while using less energy." — Kara Saul Rinaldi, Testimony before Congress
- Efficiency reduces demand, protecting consumers from rising costs from data centers.