Home Tip of the Month

How to make your home smarter and more energy efficient!

1. Run the Numbers
The first step to reducing your energy use is finding out ... how you're using your energy.

If you need help, you can hire a local energy auditor or consult online tools that will walk through your home, take note of your lifestyle, and give you a list of personalized recommendations.

2. Think about a "smart" heating/cooling system
Smart thermostats use sensors to tell when you're away, can learn your daily schedule and temperature preferences and even use local weather data to make energy-saving adjustments automatically. Plus, you can control your smart thermostat from anywhere using a tablet or smartphone.

3. Shut Off Your Stuff, Smartly
Smart plugs are also one of the easiest ways to reduce phantom load, which is the

Test Out High-Tech Tools, Ask an Expert, Have Some Tasty Cider, or Just Hang Out at CCI's "No Place Like Home" at Threadbare Cider House -- Only One Week Away!

Join CCI April 24 at Threadbare's exclusive Cider Cellar, to enjoy appetizers, pizza, pasta, libations, and more for only $20! Vegetarian and vegan options will be available.

You will have the chance to check out the space, talk to some of our experts about your home, and have a hands-on experience with some of our "healthy homes" tools.

In our most ambitious year to date, CCI needs YOU, our amazing friends and colleagues, to help us expand our reach throughout the region and let more people know about some of the exciting and impactful work that we do! This "Happy Hour +" event - the first in a series of three at different Pittsburgh hotspots - is a casual and laid back opportunity for old supporters, new friends, and curious Pittsburghers to learn about what CCI does and how they can get involved.

Tickets have officially SOLD OUT, but we have expanded the event by 15 spots, so get registered!
energy consumed by devices that you aren't even using. Try to group devices that you use infrequently, like videogame consoles or stereo systems, onto a single power strip. That will make it easier to plug them into an Amazon smart plug, Wemo, or TP-Link Kasa to turn them off while you're not using them.

Read more about "smart" energy saving tips [here](#).

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**Triboro Home Performance Workshop: Opening Doors to Energy Efficiency**

Join Etna, Millvale, Sharpsburg and the CCI Team, May 18 at the Millvale Moose, for a free series of events tied to energy efficiency. From 3 to 5 p.m., the workshop features hand-on opportunities to learn from experts at CCI about simple, low-cost Do-It-Yourself (DIY) improvements you can make in your own home.

Plus, you can take a “walk-through” highlights reel tour of the energy audit performed on the Millvale Library, including infrared camera imaging and a blower-door set-up. Drop in and be part of the TriBoro EcoDistrict on our website NOW while you still can! We planned to sell tickets at the door, but, because we are nearing capacity, you MUST register beforehand to attend this event!

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**Efficiency Reduces Energy Burdens for Low-Income Multifamily Households**

A recent study from the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (ACEEE), found that “energy efficiency programs save an average of more than $100 in utility bills for low-income households,” and help in the reduction of high energy burdens. Low income households are particularly susceptible to high percentage of household income spent on home and energy costs (i.e. a “high energy burden) because, affordable apartments are often older and in need of repairs. Because these apartments are typically not as energy efficient as newer buildings, they can create high energy burdens for residents.” Implementing widespread energy efficiency programs for affordable housing can reduce these burdens and decrease energy costs for some of the most vulnerable populations in the U.S. Read more [here](#).
Earlier this month, at the national conference of the Building Performance Association, smart home technologies were the headliner track and the buzz among the nearly 2000 attendees. Following on their report issued late last year on the revolutionizing of home performance and home-to/as-grid, the Association (the newly rebranded name of the Home Performance Coalition) laid out a future where all homes feature smart light bulbs, smart water heaters, sensor-driven high-performance furnaces and energy recovery devices, home energy management systems, voice-driven technologies, and fully integrated arrays of sensors for lighting, temperature, indoor air quality -- and a tech-savvy workforce to install and manage those items.

Among the conference presentations, The Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnership, emphasized smart technology used to control and manage the interplay between these new building-based solutions and the electric grid. Read more from NEEP [here](#).

CCI was a part of the Climate Change hearing held by Auditor General, Eugene DePasquale, at the end of March.

While there, Alison Steele and Lucy de Barbaro discussed energy efficiency in residential structures and the need to reduce energy use in the region’s aging housing stock and promote energy efficient new construction.

Lucy went on to state that buildings are responsible for 40

**CCI a Big Winner at the 2018-2019 Sustainable Pittsburgh Challenge Awards**

With more than 100 employers participating in the 2018-2019 Sustainable Pittsburgh Challenge, it was easy to see the strength of Pittsburgh’s sustainable community at the recent awards ceremony. **According to Sustainable Pittsburgh**, “The aggregated savings by this year’s participants are enough to power a whopping 7,978 average Pittsburgh single-family homes for one year. This...
percent of climate-changing greenhouse gas emissions in the U.S., and roughly half of that percentage comes from residential buildings. Read more [here](#).

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**Upcoming Events**

**FutureFest 2019**
April 20

**CCI's 'No Place Like Home' Event Series**
April 24

**BPI Building Analyst Training Course**
May 6

**PCRG 2019 Community Development Summit**
May 8

**Inspire Speakers Series Present: Nobel Laureate Dr. Frances Arnold**
May 13

**Navigating Health and Wellness Standards**
May 16

**Triboro Home Performance Workshop**
May 18

**BPI Healthy Homes Evaluator**
May 29

**BPI Building Science Principles**
June 4

**Achieving Green and Healthy Homes Speaker Series**
June 20

**"No Place Like Home" at ENIX Brewing (Save the Date)**

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Finishing a close race for top honors in the Small Nonprofit region, CCI again won the category for its second consecutive year -- and CCI earned the second highest overall point total. Along with the Small Nonprofit title, CCI also brought home the prizes for Top Water Saver AND Top Waste Saver! Congratulations to everyone involved in the challenge for their amazing accomplishments and for being strong proponents of sustainability. The CCI team was happy to be involved and looks forward to participating in 2020.

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Hazelwood Green streets/trail open to public for the 1st time in a century

Exciting news in Hazelwood! At the beginning of this month, the Hazelwood Green development site, where the LTV Steel mill once stood, opened up to the public for the first time in more than 100 years! According to this [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette article](#), "a ribbon-cutting ceremony Monday stamped the opening of Blair Street, which enters Hazelwood Green from Second Avenue and connects to Hazelwood Avenue. The 1.9-mile Hazelwood Trail provides cyclists and pedestrians a direct connection from Hazelwood to the Eliza Furnace, Three Rivers Heritage and Great Allegheny Passage trails." The rest of the project is still under construction, but the local residents that have been there for this whole process surely welcome the progress. Read more about the Hazelwood Green development project [here](#).
When Policymakers Ignore Science, Children Pay the Price

Dr. Richard Jackson, a highly regarded writer for Environmental Health News, who warned years ago about the brain damaging effects of lead on children and now makes a similar case against air pollution. According to Jackson, "Many of the protections we rely on today were enacted only after concerned parents and children's advocates fought to advance them. Repeatedly, our society has ignored the health of those most vulnerable among us: infants may be unable to speak, but they are profoundly sensitive to environmental threats surrounding them."

Just this past month, the American Journal of Public Health published an article by a group of scientists, physicians and children's health advocates urging officials at the federal, state and local levels to increase efforts to reduce exposure to air pollution in order to protect our children's brains. Children's health must be protected. Whether it is in the water they drink, in the air they breathe, or in the home where they sleep, action must be taken. Learn more here.