



How long does it take for your investment to pay for itself?

Reducing your carbon impact is not only essential for the planet, it can also save money on the wallet. Here are the different time-frames it will take for you to get your money back in saved energy costs.

One year payback

- Change to CFL Lightbulbs – Switch out every bulb that is used more than 10 hours per year
- Install Hot Water Heater Blankets (on older heaters)
- Caulk all Windows and Put Weatherstrips on all Doors – Do a simple draft test
- Seal all Air Ducting and Vents
- Install a Programmable Thermostat
- Put up Sunshades on all Unshaded South-Facing Windows
- Install Low Flow Showerheads and Faucet Aerators

Two-three year payback

- Upgrade Attic Insulation – Blow in cellulose to R-38
- Install Automatic Irrigation Control - Install timers on all sprinklers and watering devices
- Install Low Flow Toilets – The City has a \$125/toilet rebate
- Install a Whole-House Fan

Four-five year payback

- Install Wall Insulation – Install on all exterior walls (especially unshaded south-facing walls)
- Plant Drought Resistent Landscaping – Lawns will be very expensive in Davis in the future because of water costs
- Upgrade Appliances to Energy Star Compliant – Clothes washers and refrigerators are the biggest energy users after heating and air conditioning systems. The older the equipment replaced, the greater the payback

6-10 year payback

- Install a Solar Photovoltaic or Hot Water System – Substantial rebates and tax incentives are available
- Purchase a High Mileage Vehicle – Only makes sense for people driving greater than 5,000 miles per year

This information comes from coolcalifornia.org, a one-stop-shop for all Californians - packed with quick, easy-to-use and reliable tools that all Californians need to save money and reduce their impact on the climate.