



# Home Heating & Cooling Cheat Sheet: WAYS TO PAY

*Home energy efficiency retrofits can be a big investment.  
For more resources, videos, and inspiration go to [www.cooldavis.org/HomeEnergy](http://www.cooldavis.org/HomeEnergy)*

## QUESTIONS TO ASK CONTRACTORS, EXPERTS, & YOURSELF

- What is the cost of a minor or major repair versus the cost of replacing the system?
- What are the costs of operating the existing system compared to the estimated annual operating costs of a new system?
- Do I want to pay cash for the whole project or finance it?
- Are rebates available for the project that will reduce the cost?
- Should I do the project in stages and spread the costs over time or do I want to do the whole project all at once?
- What are my options for spreading the costs over time?
- What is my budget and when do I need to start saving to pay for a new system and energy efficiency improvements?

## REBATES & INCENTIVES

- **Cool Davis Rebates and Incentives page** This page has an ongoing list of current rebates and incentives for home energy, transportation, and water projects in our area. [www.cooldavis.org/resources/incentives-and-rebates/](http://www.cooldavis.org/resources/incentives-and-rebates/)
- **Database of State Incentives for Renewables & Efficiency (DSIRE)**  
This website does an extensive search of all policies and incentives by zip code <https://www.dsireusa.org/>

## ENERGY EFFICIENT FINANCING

- **Credit Unions**

Travis Credit Union Eco-Friendly Loan

[www.traviscu.org/personal/borrow/eco-friendly-loan/](http://www.traviscu.org/personal/borrow/eco-friendly-loan/)

Yolo Federal Credit Union Energy Saver Loan

[www.yolofcu.org/loans/personal-loans/energy-saver-loan/](http://www.yolofcu.org/loans/personal-loans/energy-saver-loan/)

- **Energy Efficient Financing Programs**

GoGreen Financing (REEL Program). The Residential Energy Efficiency Loan (REEL) program was designed to help California homeowners and renters access affordable financing for energy efficiency projects. <https://gogreenfinancing.com/residential>

- **Energy Efficient Financing Programs (cont.)**

Golden State Finance Authority (GSFA). With the GSFA Residential Energy Retrofit Program, eligible homeowners can finance up to \$50,000 in energy efficiency measures with a 6.5% fixed interest rate on a 15-year loan.

<http://www.gsfahome.org/programs/energy/overview.shtml>

## **OTHER FINANCING OPTIONS**

Talk to your lender to see if either of these options is available to you.

- Cash-out refinance
- First lien HELOC

## **PACE PROGRAMS**

PACE stands for Property Assessed Clean Energy. PACE program financing allows qualified homeowners to finance HVAC, renewable energy, and water and energy efficiency upgrades through their property tax bill. This program can be a great opportunity as long as the energy bill savings resulting from the upgrade are sizable enough to pay for the increase in property tax. So do your due diligence to find out what the expected savings and tax bill increase. Use the questions below to help you understand if PACE loan terms are right for you.

- **How much will the loan increase your annual property tax?** Make sure the loan amount is clear and affordable whether you actually save on your energy bills or not.
- **What are the expected annual energy bill savings compared to the increase in property tax payments?** Insist on seeing an analysis of expected annual energy and cost savings based on existing conditions in **your** house and **your** historical energy bills! Confirm that the savings are a reasonable fraction of your existing bills.
- **Do you plan to sell your home before the loan is paid off?** If you think you might sell, this may not be the right financing for you. It can be extremely difficult for a buyer to obtain financing for a home with a PACE lien.
- **Do you qualify for one of other financing options?** You may be able to obtain similar terms without borrowing against your home. See the list above.

The three vendors authorized to provide PACE Programs in Yolo County are

- CaliforniaFirst
- HERO
- Ygrene

***Who is Cool Davis?** Cool Davis is a local non-profit organization dedicated to helping Davis residents and businesses adopt more sustainable practices and reduce their greenhouse emissions. Cool Davis has partnered with the city since 2010 to offer resources, host events, and provide outreach and educational experiences for Davis residents. To learn more about other Cool Davis projects related to energy, transportation, and consumption of goods and services, visit us at [www.cooldavis.org](http://www.cooldavis.org).*