



## REDUCING THE CARBON FOOTPRINT OF REMOTE WORK

# Improving Energy Efficiency of the Home Office

## THE CHANGING WORKPLACE

The rapid growth of telework has prompted the federal community to reassess the traditional workplace. Indeed, a guiding principle of Workplace 2030 is that work can be done anywhere at any time. As the expansion of telework grows, so does the need to invest in better home offices. Specifically, reimagining the workspace through a sustainability lens and prioritizing reducing carbon footprints and increasing the energy efficiency of home offices.

## THE HOME OFFICE

Telework has led to a decrease in carbon footprint related to transportation, as commuting to the office becomes less frequent. However, there is also an increase in overall home energy consumption as the home office becomes prioritized. Encouraging remote workers to invest in habits and products that reduce their at-home carbon footprint can offset these issues.

## Tips to Reducing Work From Home Carbon Footprint/Improve Energy Efficiency:

### Low Hanging Fruit Strategies

These strategies are well suited for multi-family and apartment dwellers.

- 1 Use ENERGY STAR rated equipment such as monitors and printers.
- 2 Use LED light bulbs and utilize daylighting in home office. Check for programs that offer free of charge or incentivized LED light bulbs on [www.dsireusa.org](http://www.dsireusa.org)
- 3 Utilize local thermal comfort devices (fans, footwarmers, etc).
- 4 Open windows on moderate days.



## Major Intervention Strategies

These strategies are well suited for single family dwellers and homeowners.

- 1 Get a home energy audit.
- 2 Check for local energy efficiency and utility incentives on [www.dsireusa.org](http://www.dsireusa.org)
- 3 Switch to high-efficiency, all-electric systems for the home. Consider installing high-efficiency heat pumps for your heating and air conditioning, electric water heaters, and electric kitchen appliances.
- 4 Assess and improve attic insulation.
- 5 Install solar energy.
- 6 Purchase or lease a portion of a community solar project.

