

POWER Newsletter

2024



The Changing of the Bulb: POWER's Board Gets a New President

Former President Cindy Frantz is seen here passing the bulb (and the reins) to incoming President Brent Smith. Brent worked as a professional Energy Auditor before retiring. He currently serves on the Oberlin Public Utilities Commission, and is looking forward to serving the Oberlin community further as the President of POWER's Board of Directors. Cindy will carry-on with the Board as Vice President while maintaining positions on the Outreach, Executive, and Governance committees.



"Since 2008, POWER has helped Oberlin homeowners, renters, and apartment owners reduce their energy consumption. The result is lower bills with improved year-round comfort, a better environment, healthier homes, and increased property values. Energy costs are rising and POWER has the ability to help you start saving today. As the new President, I am proud to implement plans to grow our organization and help more residents save money & energy. Please contact us to schedule a free audit and learn how we may help you." ~ Brent Smith, POWER Board President

Visit POWEROberlin.org/about_us for Board Member information.

Upcoming Events

- Oberlin Farmers Market.
Bulb Swap July 20, 2024
- Oberlin Winter Market.
Follow the market online for dates & specific vendors.
Facebook.com/OberlinWinterMarket
- OCS Pantry Days Bulb Giveaways. See OCS' schedule for POWER dates & other special events @ Facebook.com/OberlinCommunityServices

A Change of Scenery

POWER is delighted to announce our new location in the Cooper Community Resource Center at **500 E. Lorain St.** Thanks to Oberlin Community Services (OCS) and their dedication to POWER over the years, our move to the new office has been amazing. By far the best office POWER has ever had — we can meet with clients as needed and we have plenty of space for all of our LEDs, marketing materials,



and Greg & Stephanie. We are so appreciative of our long-standing partnership with Oberlin Community Services. OCS is vital to the City of Oberlin and southern Lorain County. Together, OCS, POWER, and YOU can build a healthy community.



What is a Heat Pump and Why Might You Want One?

Residential energy use accounts for about 20% of climate-heating pollution emitted in the U.S. A major source is the oil, natural gas, and wood burned to heat millions of homes. Switching from fossil fuels to heat pumps is a great way to reduce carbon emissions and air pollution, and it's also more efficient.

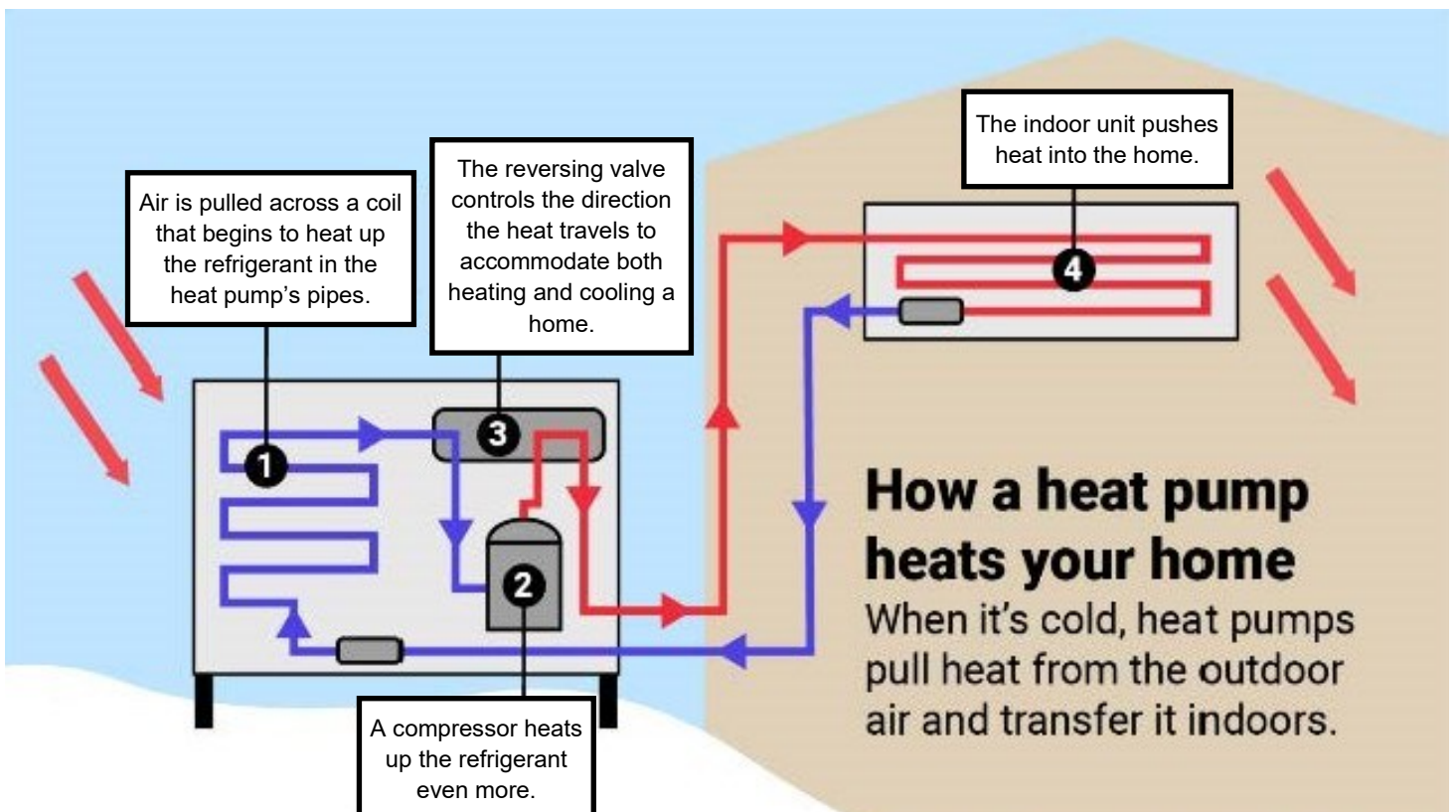
EFFICIENT SIMPLICITY: Like your refrigerator, heat pumps use electricity to transfer heat from a cool space to a warm space, making the cool space cooler and the warm space warmer. During the heating season, heat pumps move heated air from the outdoors into your house (see diagram below). During the cooling season, heat pumps move heat from your house into the outdoors. Because they transfer heat rather than generate heat, heat pumps can efficiently provide comfortable temperatures for your home.

CHOICES: There are three main types of heat pumps connected by ducts: air-to-air, water source, and geothermal. They collect heat from the air, water, or ground outside your home and concentrate it for use inside. The most common type of heat pump is the air-source heat pump, which transfers heat between your house and the outside air.

ELECTRICITY REDUCTION: Today's heat pumps can reduce your electricity use for heating by approximately 65% compared to electric resistance heating such as furnaces and baseboard heaters. High-efficiency heat pumps also dehumidify better than standard central air conditioners, resulting in less energy usage and more cooling comfort in summer months.

HEATING & COOLING IN ONE SYSTEM: An air-source heat pump can provide efficient heating AND cooling for your home. When properly installed, an air-source heat pump can deliver up to three times more heat energy to a home than the electrical energy it consumes. This is possible because a heat pump transfers heat rather than converting it from a fuel, like combustion heating systems.

POWER, as a nonprofit focused on saving energy for Oberlin residents, can help with this process. Please contact us for more information and assistance making informed decisions about heat pumps and if one may benefit your home.



Simple Ways To Save Every Day



1	SAVE WATER: Shorten showers to 10-minutes or less. Installing low-flow water fixtures can cost less than \$20 each and can save several gallons per day, cutting your water bill significantly.
2	SAVE ENERGY and MONEY: Switching to LED bulbs can save an average size home up to \$75 per year in electricity costs. Using a programmable thermostat to adjust to energy-saving temperatures while sleeping or away can lower your overall utility usage by hundreds of dollars over the lifetime of your heating & cooling systems.
3	EASY CHANGES: Replace your refrigerator door seal . Move the oven rack closer to the heating unit to cut cooking time by up to 20% but pay attention so you don't burn dinner 🔥. Ceiling & room fans can circulate temperature-controlled air and reduce humidity, saving on AC & heating costs.
4	REPLACE HEATING & COOLING SYSTEMS: When the AC is fighting you every summer, or the furnace is on its last leg, consider a Heat Pump for both cooling and heating your home. In addition to saving energy, they have low carbon emissions, and there are local, state, and federal tax incentives & rebates available to significantly reduce your out-of-pocket expenses. POWER is happy to help you navigate your options.
5	FILL GAPS and ADD INSULATION: Caulking old windows, filling gaps in the foundation, and adding 3-12" of insulation in the attic or crawlspace can cut heating & cooling costs by 20% or more when combining these actions.



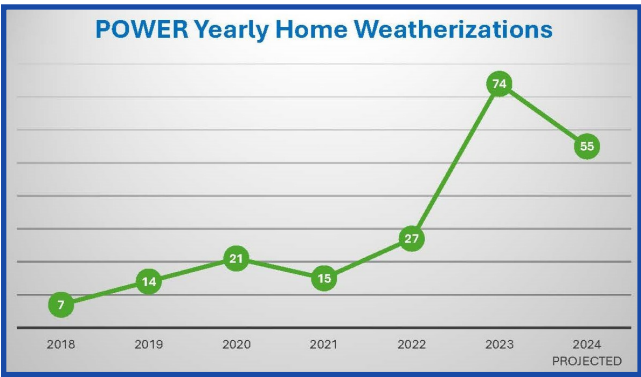
Creating a Community of Comfortable, Affordable, & Healthy Homes

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POWER had its best year yet in 2023, weatherizing 74 homes! 2024 is on track to be another great year. POWER offers free energy audits AND financial assistance for all weatherizations—paying a *minimum* of 25% and up to 100% depending on the residents' income.

We all can help Oberlin meet its climate action plan goals, making our city better, cleaner, & healthier for all of us.

It works, and my expense on my gas bill every month is less than my cable. My gas bill is down by almost 70%.



Be part of the energy efficiency craze!
Call Greg Jones or email Stephanie today!



Stephanee is seen here working hard so you don't have to!

POWER
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