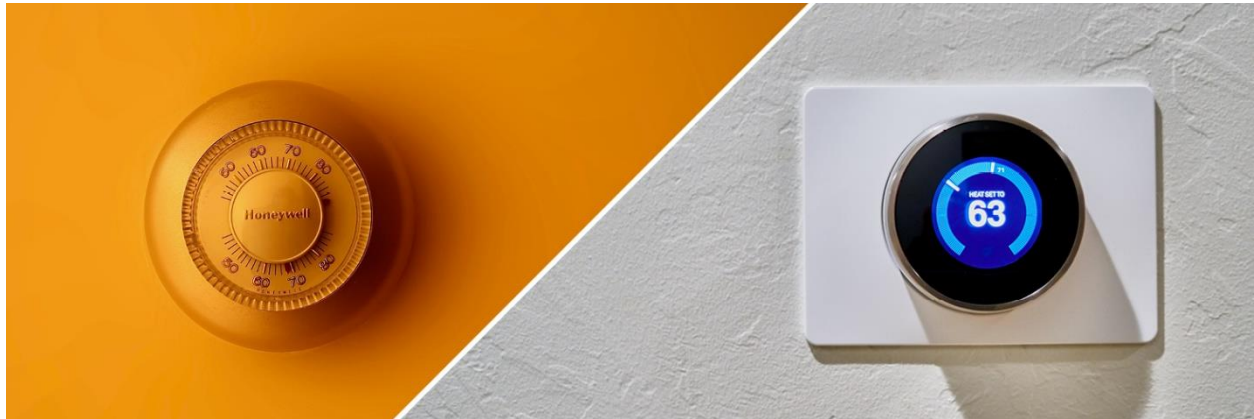


Reducing your carbon footprint

Thermostats



Growing up we had a thermostat that was a dial that would set the temperature you wanted your house to be set at and a switch that would toggle between cooling and heating. It was a very simple design; however, the thermostat didn't know when we were home or not and would simply set the temperature based on the overall house temperature and what we wanted the temperature to be.

Since purchasing my own home I have installed programmable thermostats that indicate when based on time and temperature when the furnace or A/C should run. Much better since we tend to be in the house or out of the house at similar times. Now the appliance I own that uses the most significant amount of energy is mostly running during times I need or want it to I have made a huge improvement into better use of energy and overall reducing my carbon footprint.

Now there are even more sophisticated thermostats, those that use artificial intelligence to predict based on upcoming weather and your overall use patterns to turn your HVAC units on / off before you even think about and in essence preparing your home before you think about it. Some of the thermostats even communicate with your local utility allowing the utility to adjust your thermostat when they are reaching peak power generation. This prevents them from having to turn on their most expensive assets and burning very expensive and generally very dirty fuel.

The very nice part about this is that you can start to really make a difference in your carbon footprint and still enjoy a comfortable home.