Becoming eco-friendly can be easier with today’s technology. Convert your home into a smart home with smart technology that can be remotely managed from your phone when you’re away.

**SMART THERMOMETERS**

Cooling and heating your home can take up more energy than any other appliance in your home. Installing smart thermometers make it easy to keep an eye on energy usage. EnergyStar.gov says smart thermometers are the best candidate to help save energy within the household. Smart thermostats offer the ability to control your home’s temperature while you are away. They are also able to learn your home patterns and turn up and down the temperature automatically. Smart thermometers have earned the energy star certification through a process that verifies saving based on extensive field data, according to EnergyStar. There are a variety of different thermometers you can buy at your local hardware stores.

**SMART APPLIANCES**

More appliances are getting smart features added to them as the years progress. Dishwashers, clothes washers and dryers use less energy. Each of these appliances offers consumers new functionality that can provide added convenience and more savings.

Appliances with the EnergyStar certification come with features such as giving you an alert when the door is open too long. Some refrigerators offer a sneak peak function that allows you to see what is inside without actually opening the fridge. You also can schedule your washing machine or dishwasher to operate when your electricity rates are lowest.

Some smart devices can connect to one another and be controlled remotely from an app. Investigate which appliances contain this feature.

**OTHER SMART HOME TECH**

Smart thermometers and smart appliances are really great ways to invest in becoming more eco-friendly, but they aren’t the only investments you can make. There is other smart tech you can invest in that can also make your home more green.

A robotic vacuum cleaner is a great eco-friendly investment for your home that comes with plenty of benefits. Robotic vacuums can be controlled through Wi-Fi and will move around your apartment or home picking up lint, dust and dirt.

Smart power strips are a quick way to make your home more energy efficient. Devices can still suck energy even when they are in sleep mode or turned off. This is called vampire loading, and the best way to stop vampire loading is investing into a smart power strip. Smart strips are the best way to stop vampire loading because they detect when a device is in rest mode or sleep mode and cut power off to that outlet. There are smart strips that can even be controlled via Wi-Fi, allowing you to turn it on or off away from home.

---

**SMART HOME CERTIFICATION**

The Environmental Protection Agency’s new EnergyStar Smart Home Energy Management Systems is a certification for a package of smart home products that help save money and energy while providing user convenience. Required features, according to the EPA, include reliable occupancy-based control of connected devices, user feedback and display of energy use data, limiting the standby power of required devices and the inclusion of an EnergyStar-certified connected thermostat. Read more at [www.bit.ly/3mz669Z](http://www.bit.ly/3mz669Z).