

# Electrification – the Push to Eliminate Natural Gas

**Shannon Corcoran**  
**American Gas Association**  
**Director of Building Codes & Standards**



# What is Electrification

Electrifying HVAC systems allows for the use of clean energy sources, such as solar, wind, and hydroelectric power, which can be more efficient and have a lower carbon footprint than fossil fuels

Building electrification—also known as beneficial electrification or building decarbonization—describes the shift to using electricity rather than burning fossil fuels like oil, gas and coal for heating and cooking. The goal is all-electric buildings powered by solar, wind and other sources of zero-carbon electricity.



# International Energy Conservation Code

## IECC Residential and IRC Chapter 11

- **Proposals approved for inclusion:**
  - **Electric-ready provisions in the body of the code**
  - **Solar/PV-ready provisions in the body of the code**
  - **Electric Vehicle charging stations ready provisions in the body of the code**
  - **An All-Electric Appendix that may be adopted by the local Authority Having Jurisdiction**
  - **An Operational Carbon Rating and Energy Reporting Appendix that may be adopted by the local Authority Having Jurisdiction**

# International Energy Conservation Code

## IECC Commercial

- **Proposals approved for inclusion:**
  - **Solar/PV-ready provisions in the body of the code**
  - **Electric Vehicle charging stations ready provisions in the body of the code**
  - **Requirement that mixed fuel buildings use a 1.23 energy credit factor as compared to all-electric buildings**
  - **Requirement for sub-metering for both electric and gas utilities**
  - **Requirement for on-site renewables for at least a portion of the energy used**

# International Energy Conservation Code

## IECC Commercial

- **Proposals approved for inclusion:**
  - **An All-Electric Appendix that may be adopted by the local Authority Having Jurisdiction**
  - **Electric-ready provisions Appendix that may be adopted by the local Authority Having Jurisdiction**
    - **Includes a proposal to require electrical infrastructure installation for electric heat pumps for heating in all climate zones**

# Environmental Protection Agency

- Consistent with the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) focus on the potential for electric heat pumps to deliver energy-efficiency gains, pollution reduction and cost-savings to consumers, the ENERGY STAR program is proposing to **sunset the certification pathway to the ENERGY STAR label for residential furnaces and central air conditioners (CACs)**. This will allow EPA to evolve the ENERGY STAR portfolio of product specifications toward identifying the most efficient electric equipment now available to consumers.

(May 18, 2023)

# Department of Energy

## Energy Conservation Standards for Consumer Conventional Cooking Products

- The Proposed Rule is an attempt by DOE to remove a large portion of natural gas cooking products from the market. DOE's Proposed Rule is not an energy efficiency measure, it's an improper effort to remove gas appliances from the market
- Anywhere from 50-96 percent of current consumer gas cooking appliances will not be able to meet the proposed standard
  - The proposed standard would eliminate cook tops with more than one high input burner, and continuous cast iron grates, features that consumers want and rely on, which violates 42 U.S.C. § 6295(o)(4)
  - The proposed standard is not economically justified and would result in energy savings equally \$1.51 annually
- The SNOPR exceeds DOE's authority because it effectively imposes "design requirements" on gas cooktops by limiting cooktop design to three small burners and one large burner



# Department of Energy

- **Energy Conservation Standards for:**
  - Water Heaters – consumer and commercial
  - Boilers – consumer and commercial
  - Furnaces – consumer and commercial
  - Pool Heaters
  - Miscellaneous Gas Products
  - Gas Clothes Dryers
  - Federal Buildings
  - Mobile Homes

# Fuel Choice

City of Berkeley – the first city to ban the installation of gas connections in new construction

- The California Restaurant Association vs. City of Berkeley
  - U.S. District Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit issued a unanimous opinion finding that the Berkeley ordinance is preempted by EPCA, despite the City’s contention that prohibiting natural gas *pipng*, rather than the gas itself, was not preempted by federal law. The opinion “held that, by its plain text and structure, the Act’s preemption provision encompasses building codes that regulate natural gas use by covered products. By preventing such appliances from *using* natural gas,” the Court found, “the Berkeley building code did exactly that.”
  - The Ninth Circuit Decision has potential implications for other state and local jurisdictions hoping to pass similar measures aimed at eliminating the end-use o

# Washington State Fuel Choice

- Washington State was prepared to implement its new energy code which would require new construction to use heat pumps only.
  - On May 24, the Washington State Building Council met, and voted to delay the implementation of the Energy Code for 120 days under its emergency procedures.
  - The Council also voted to form a Technical Advisory Group during this period to review the code provisions in light of the Berkeley decision to minimize legal risks

Thank you

# Questions?

Shannon Corcoran  
scorcoran@aga.org