



January 6, 2022

Contra Costa Board of Supervisors

RE: DRAFT ELECTRIC NEW BUILDING ORDINANCE

Dear Members of the Board,

Thank you for moving forward on the proposed ordinance to ban natural gas in all new residences, and many new nonresidential buildings. We have reviewed the draft ordinance, and only have a couple of comments:

1. The ordinance is silent on new commercial buildings where HVAC and water heating systems are installed prior to occupancy types being identified (where a building is a multiple tenant type, and where a single tenant may have both applicable and exempt space types). On December 13, I spoke to Demian Hardman-Saldana about this, and he assured me – to our organization’s satisfaction – that planning and building department staff will not allow natural gas infrastructure to be installed unless a space is an exempt occupancy type.
2. Solar Thermal Systems. While this proposed ordinance has been characterized as an “electrification” ordinance, its purpose is to stop new buildings from burning fossil fuels. Therefore, solar thermal space heating and water heating systems ought to be allowed (and encouraged). Section III (b) includes a definition for All-Electric Building. The definition’s final line is “An all-electric building may utilize solar thermal pool heating.”

We propose that this line’s wording change to “[An all-electric building may utilize solar thermal space and solar water heating](#)”.

We look forward to working with the County on additional programs to phase out fossil fuels in transportation, and in all buildings – new and existing.

Please feel free to contact me should you need any additional information.

Gary Farber, on behalf of 350 Contra Costa

cc: Demian Hardman-Saldana, Wes Sullens, Clerk of the Board

From: Adrian Byram
Sent: Thursday, January 13, 2022 11:00 AM
To: Diane Burgis; John Gioia; District5; Karen Mitchoff; Supervisor Candace Andersen
Cc: Clerk of the Board
Subject: Ordinance to decarbonize new buildings
Attachments: CCC BOS re decarb Jan 2022_.pdf

January 12, 2022

Dear Supervisors,

Thank you for committing in the 2020 Contra Costa County Climate Emergency Resolution to require all new buildings in the unincorporated parts of the county to be all-electric, and for your December 14, 2021 vote to instruct staff to create the ordinance to make this a reality. As you may recall, many community members and groups came out to express their strong support for this action.

Sustainable Rossmoor's mission is to promote environmentally sustainable practices in Rossmoor, the surrounding community, and the world at large. Reducing the use of natural gas and other fossil fuels and replacing them with renewable energy is one of our top priorities.

We urge you to pass the new ordinance on January 18th, and look forward to a time not too far away when you will plan incentives to phase out the use of natural gas in existing buildings.

Respectfully,

Adrian Byram
President, Sustainable Rossmoor
415-465-2189



Sustainable Rossmoor

Re: The ordinance to decarbonize new buildings on the January 18th agenda

January 12, 2022

Dear Supervisors,

Thank you for committing in the 2020 Contra Costa County Climate Emergency Resolution to require all new buildings in the unincorporated parts of the county to be all-electric, and for your December 14, 2021 vote to instruct staff to create the ordinance to make this a reality. As you may recall, many community members and groups came out to express their strong support for this action.

Sustainable Rossmoor's mission is to promote environmentally sustainable practices in Rossmoor, the surrounding community, and the world at large. Reducing the use of natural gas and other fossil fuels and replacing them with renewable energy is one of our top priorities.

We urge you to pass the new ordinance on January 18th, and look forward to a time not too far away when you will plan incentives to phase out the use of natural gas in existing buildings.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Adrian Byram', with a long, sweeping underline.

Adrian Byram
President, Sustainable Rossmoor

From: Andy Ferguson <
Sent: Thursday, January 13, 2022 11:55 AM
To: Karen Mitchoff
Cc: Diane Burgis; John Gioia; District5; Clerk of the Board; Supervisor Candace Andersen
Subject: Comment on Building Electrification Ordinance for 1-18-22 BOS meeting.

Dear Supervisor:

My name is Andy Ferguson of Petaluma and I am a member of the American Geophysical Union (AGU) and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Thank you for passing a climate emergency resolution. The last seven years have been the hottest years in history. Often, officials don't have the time to become well informed about the science behind calls to eliminate the use of natural gas/methane. I know you are extremely busy, but if you have time to review it below is a one page synopsis of some critical findings concerning natural gas/methane emissions including info about presentations on this topic at the AGU Fall Meeting held in San Francisco in Dec 2019. If you want to understand more about the gravity of the situation around natural gas emissions, the information below helps summarize certain key findings as they relate to building and local pipeline emissions. Thank you for your interest and attention to this vital issue.

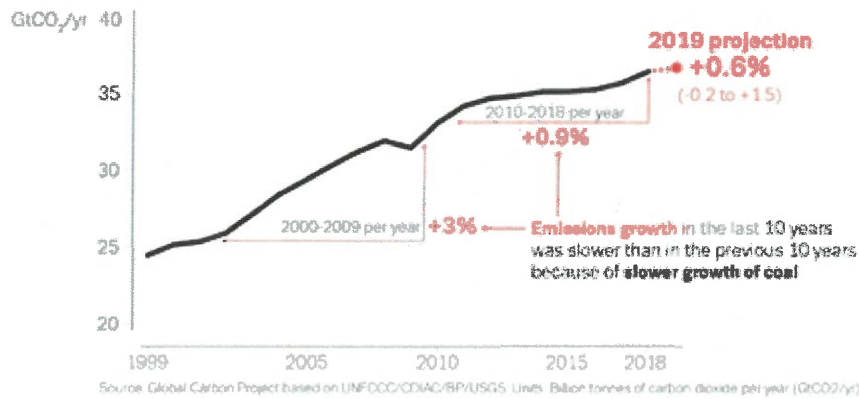
2020 Report on Methane Emissions with latest information from the American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting of Dec 2019, plus other recent research

Methane emissions, coming mainly from oil and natural gas production, appear to be growing faster than emissions from any other sources of GHGs worldwide. Because methane's atmospheric life is around 20 years or less, compared with CO2's lifespan of 300+ years, it is the current focus of public policy to reduce natural gas emissions to forestall more rapid global warming. A graphic of the Global Carbon Budget, a cooperative work of a large scientific network, is shown below. The illustration for the year 2019 shows a continued growth in CO2 and CO2 equivalent (CO2e) emissions despite widespread efforts to reduce GHGs. The graph on the left shows natural gas emissions have increased by 2.6%, while oil related CO2 emissions increased about 0.9% and coal emissions fell by 0.9%. This is not the whole story, however, because the Global Carbon Budget does not include leakage of natural gas occurring during recovery and transport of natural gas. These plus other facts described below suggest that methane's contribution to GHG emissions remains understated in the Global Carbon Budget estimates.

Global Carbon Budget 2019

CO₂ emissions grow amidst slowly emerging climate policies

Fossil CO₂ emissions grow more slowly... but do not yet decline

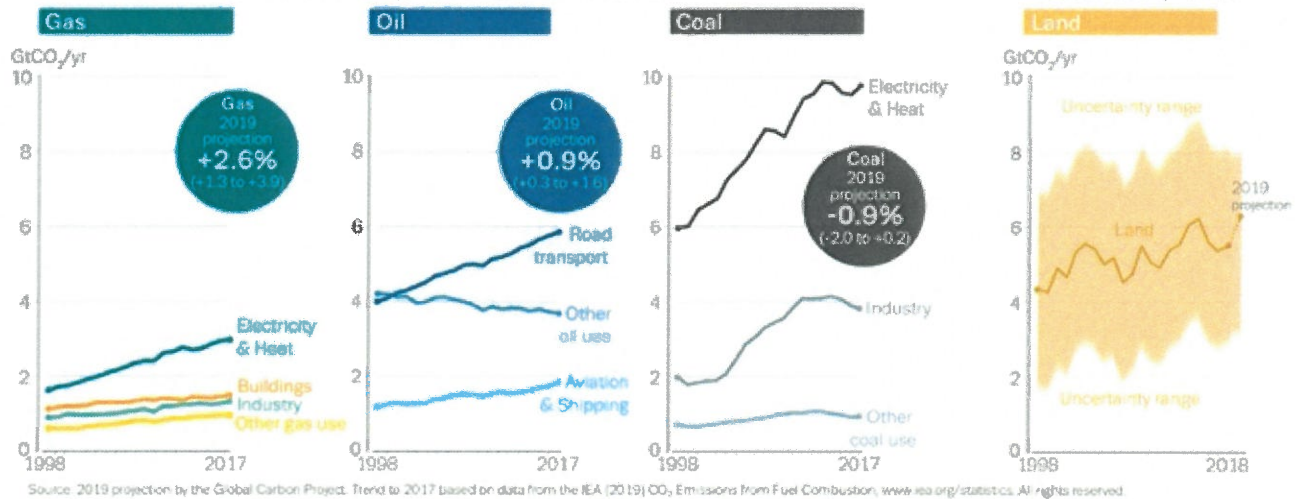


CO₂ emissions need to decline rapidly to net-zero around mid-century to pursue the Paris Agreement 1.5°C goal

Natural gas and oil now drive global emissions growth

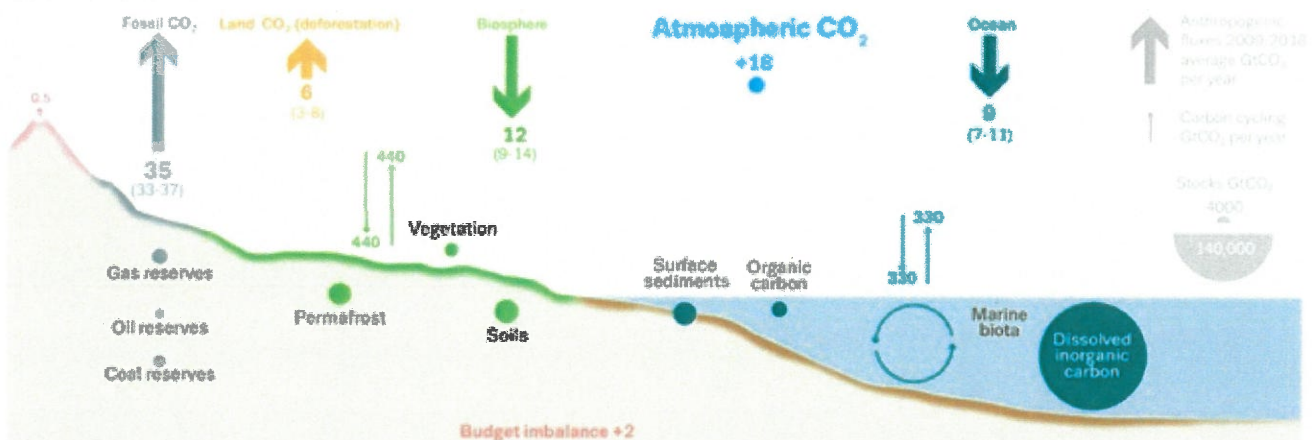
Continued support for low-carbon technologies needs to be combined with policies that phase out fossil fuels.

Deforestation fires in 2019 drive emissions up on land



The rise in atmospheric CO₂ causes climate change

The global carbon cycle 2009-2018



Copyright:

Produced by the Global Carbon Project based on Friedlingstein et al. Earth System Science Data (2019).
Written and edited by Corinne Le Quéré (UEA) with the Global Carbon Budget team. Graphics by Nigel Hawton.
Infographic funded by the European Commission VERIFY (776810) project.

GLOBAL CARBON BUDGET

UEA University of East Angles

European Commission

VERIFY

Summary of Findings:

Key scientific papers during the past ten years have established the climate related danger of using natural gas. A widely cited paper by Alvarez et al. (2012) established that if total leakage from exploration, recovery, and distribution of natural gas exceeds 3.2 percent of the gas used to generate electricity, then natural gas offers no climate advantages over the burning of coal for the same purpose. Other studies found that leak rates of natural gas exceeded this percentage. See, for example, Howarth et al. (2011), Schneising et al. (2014), Franco et al. (2016), Howarth et al. (2019) etc. Since the 2012 Alvarez paper natural gas production and related fugitive emissions have risen in absolute terms.

In light of the crucial role of methane emissions as a leading cause of climate change, what follows are bullet points of information about natural gas emissions made available at the American Geophysical Union (AGU) Fall Meeting in San Francisco during Dec 9-16, 2019, plus other relevant AGU research. The AGU meeting is attended by more than 25,000 scientists.

- **Local Gas Main Leakage:** The amount of local leakage from natural gas mains has been seriously underestimated by both the EPA and utility companies. A research team headed by Zachary Weller and Joseph von Fisher of Colorado State University estimates that there are 630,000 leaks in the gas mains in USA cities contributing 0.7 teragrams (700 thousand tons) of methane leaked from USA gas mains each year. Presenters of this information stated that this is 5X the amount estimated by the EPA. In 2017, a team of scientists (Shindell et al. 2017) found that the full social cost of methane when weather impacts, air quality, and other factors were included is \$4822/ton. The accelerating amount of damage from climate events in recent years would indicate that the true costs of methane emissions is growing rapidly.
- **Permian Basin Leakage:** A large area source of natural gas emissions in the USA is the Permian Basin oil and gas development located in West Texas and New Mexico. The oil and gas production from this basin alone could surpass the total output of all foreign countries by 2029. A research team (Robertson et al.) of the University of Wyoming has determined that methane emissions from the PB exceeded EPA estimates by more than 1000%. Emissions of natural gas from both the Permian Basin in Texas and the Marcellus basin in Pennsylvania/Appalachia have increased dramatically over the past five years.
- **Underestimation of Methane Radiative Forcing:** An AGU paper by Etminan et al. (2016) shows that estimates of atmospheric radiative forcing (effectively warming) due to natural gas/methane have been systematically underestimated. In their paper entitled "[Radiative forcing of carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide: A significant revision of the methane radiative forcing](#)" the research group contends that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) estimates of the total forcing by methane during the years 1750 to 2011 should be increased by 25% because not all of the emitted electromagnetic spectrum energy is accounted for in standard measurements. Below is a graph from the IPCC Fifth Assessment (2014) that shows estimated anthropogenic radiative forcing by CO₂ and by methane (CH₄) during the years 1750 to 2011. Measurements are in watts per square meter (W m^{-2}). Methane's estimated effect was 0.97 W m^{-2} compared to 1.68 W m^{-2} from CO₂. Therefore, methane was estimated to have provided about 37% of the total of man-made radiative forcing by these two gases in this historical period. The revision by Etminan would increase methane's contribution to approximately 43% of the radiative forcing by these two gases. Since methane has a short atmospheric life, eliminating this gas is the best method to slow climate change.

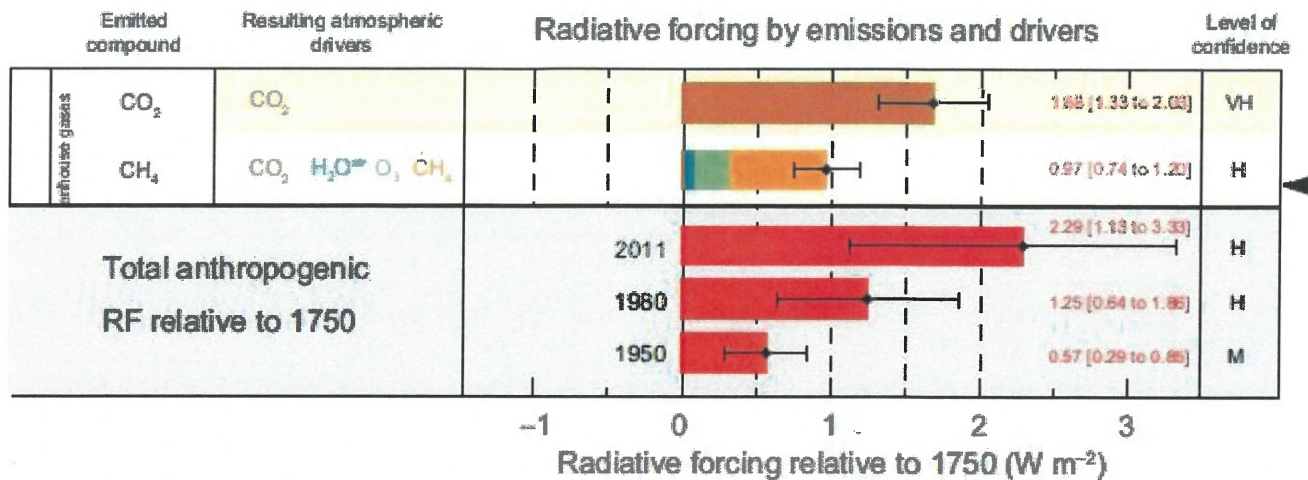


Figure SPM.5 | Radiative forcing estimates in 2011 relative to 1750 and aggregated uncertainties for the main drivers of climate change. Value global average radiative forcing (RF^{14}), partitioned according to the emitted compounds or processes that result in a combination of drivers. The best estimates of the net radiative forcing are shown as black diamonds with corresponding uncertainty intervals; the numerical values are provided on the right of the figure, together with the confidence level in the net forcing (VH – very high, H – high, M – medium, L – low, VL – very low).

- Redefining Oil and Gas Emissions:** In recent years the amount of the contribution by the oil and gas industry to the sharp rise in atmospheric methane has been controversial. Many scientists have sought to identify the source of methane in the atmosphere by its atomic weight. Put simply, “heavier” methane was believed to come from oil and gas production, while “lighter” methane was thought to come from recent biologically active sources like landfills, swamps, and meat/dairy production. Because a fairly high amount of the recently measured methane was detected as “light,” many scientists argued that tropical swamps and other biological sources were contributing much of the methane increase. Research offered by Karlis Muehlenbachs and others from the University of Alberta at the AGU meeting casts serious doubt on this methodology of measuring methane sources. Muehlenbach’s analysis of hundreds of samples of natural gas from the West Alberta Sedimentary Basin (4th largest world O&G producer) indicates that much of the so called “light” methane actually comes from oil and gas deposits, generally from shallower geological sources. Muehlenbach’s research reinforces similar conclusions by researchers at Cornell University (Howarth et al. 2019). This suggests that much more of the recent rise in atmospheric methane is coming from oil and gas than many scientists previously recognized.
- Methane Emissions from Abandoned Oil and Gas Wells:** At the AGU meeting Mary Kang of McGill University presented findings of her team of scientists and other researchers showing that methane emissions from abandoned oil and gas wells are a significant long-lived source of methane emissions. In 2019 there were three million or more such wells in the USA and one million or more in Canada and the numbers have continued to grow. Average leak rates at abandoned wells in Pennsylvania studied by Kang are believed to be 0.66 tons of methane per year per well in unplugged wells and 0.41 tons/year in plugged but vented wells. The cost of plugging wells varies widely from about \$11,000 up to \$100,000 per well, with an average cost of \$37,000/well. Wells are often abandoned unplugged or insufficiently plugged. Local governments, who can ill afford it, are left to plug the wells and many simply remain abandoned. Based on the social cost of methane calculated by Shindell et al. (\$4,822/ton) plugging such wells is worthwhile, but without reducing the use of natural gas and stopping fracking, plus giving greater attention to such wells, they will remain a growing contributor to climate change.

Conclusion

Methane emissions, primarily from natural gas fugitive emissions, are a main cause of the continued increase in worldwide GHG emissions. While the Global Carbon Budget indicates a 2.6% increase in natural gas emissions in 2019 the true number and impact of methane emissions is possibly higher. Because rising methane levels strongly correlate with recent rapidly rising global temperatures and the incidence of droughts and wildfires public policy has turned to rapidly reducing methane emissions plus phasing out natural gas and replacing it with renewable energy.

From: SRV Climate Coalition <srvclimate@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 13, 2022 1:15 PM
To: Diane Burgis; John Gioia; District5; Karen Mitchoff; Supervisor Candace Andersen
Cc: Clerk of the Board; sue bock; martiroach@gmail.com
Subject: SRV Climate Coalition Comment on Electrification Ordinance

Hello!

We, the members of the San Ramon Valley Climate Coalition, would like to draw your attention to the issue of: A Public Hearing scheduled for **Tuesday January 18th** regarding the draft **Contra Costa Building Electrification Ordinance for New Buildings**.

This effectively means that:

Fact 1. Addressing the climate crisis requires immediate and sustained investment to eliminate net global greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 (it's sooner than we think). Climate change is already harming communities with wildfires, storms, floods, extreme heat, and other climate-fueled impacts costing us 688 lives and \$145 billion in 2021.

Fact 2. Driven by plummeting costs for solar and wind technologies the United States has set a goal of 100% clean electricity by 2035. This can be achieved from more efficient appliances and the integration of efficiency into new and existing buildings.

Fact 3. Shifting from HFCs to climate-friendly working fluids in cooling equipment and other profitable or low-cost options will reduce non-CO2 sources. The last County Climate Action Plan attributed 28% of emissions to buildings. Reducing emissions in buildings is a critical step by our County to prioritize with this ordinance.

Thank you and the Board for making a commitment to electrification with the passage of the Climate Emergency Resolution and voting to authorize development of this ordinance.

Your staff is proposing 6/1/22 as the implementation date and has the full support of the Sustainability Commission, community leaders and members, and groups throughout the county.

We urge you to unanimously pass the **Contra Costa Building Electrification Ordinance for New Buildings**.

Sue Bock
San Ramon Valley Climate Coalition



From: Zoe Siegel
Sent: Friday, January 14, 2022 10:38 AM
To: Diane Burgis; John Gioia; District5; Karen Mitchoff; Supervisor Candace Andersen
Cc: Clerk of the Board; Sadie Wilson; Karen Rosenberg
Subject: Support for Building Electrification Ordinance for 1-18-22 BOS meeting
Attachments: Building Electrification.pdf

Dear Chair Mitchoff and Supervisors Anderson, Burgis, Gioia and Glover,

I write on behalf of Greenbelt Alliance in **support of the draft Contra Costa Building Electrification Ordinance for New Buildings**. In the last County Climate Action Plan 28% of emissions came from buildings, therefore reducing emissions in buildings is a **CRITICAL** step to prioritize as soon as possible.

For over 60 years, Greenbelt Alliance has worked towards a vision of a Bay Area made up of healthy, thriving, resilient communities where all members are given equal protection from climate risks and equal opportunities to enjoy the benefits of the environment and other nature-based infrastructure. How we build can make a significant difference in our commitment to reduce GhG emissions and build healthy resilient communities.

We appreciate the continued commitment to building climate resilience across the county. When the Board passed the Climate Emergency Resolution you committed to authorize the deployment of this ordinance and we are writing to you today to support your actions. Additionally, the Sustainability Commission unanimously supported the Building Electrification policy, and there are many community members and organizations who have also come out in support of this. **The time to act is now.** We urge the Board of Supervisors to adopt and implement this ordinance as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Zoe Siegel

--

Zoe Siegel (she/her/hers)
Director of Climate Resilience | **Greenbelt Alliance**
(510) 367-4464 | *Let's connect on* [LinkedIn](#) | [@thezoesiegel](#)
Schedule a meeting with me through [Calendly](#)

Check out my [Chronicle Op Ed](#) about why infill housing is a critical climate solution.

The Resilience Playbook is your go-to guide for accelerating equitable adaptation to the climate crisis in the Bay Area. **Check it out today!**
[greenbelt.org](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#)

From: Lisa Chang <.....@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 14, 2022 11:05 AM
To: Diane Burgis; John Gioia; District5; Karen Mitchoff; Supervisor Candace Andersen; Clerk of the Board
Subject: A comment on the Building Electrification Ordinance for the 1-18-22 Board of Supervisors meeting.

To the Board of Supervisors:

I am a retired physician in Alamo who cares deeply about the harmful effects of burning fossil fuels on our safety and public health.

I urge you to vote to adopt the Building Electrification ordinance, and to implement it as swiftly as possible.

Thank you for committing to building electrification when you passed the Climate Emergency Resolution. There is tremendous support for building electrification among our neighbors, colleagues, and friends here in Alamo and Contra Costa County.

Climate disasters, fires, smoke, and air pollution are already affecting our safety and health here in Contra Costa County, and it is crucial that we act swiftly to reduce our use of fossil fuels.

Please vote to adopt the Building Electrification ordinance.

Sincerely,

Lisa F Chang, MD

Alamo, CA 94507

From: Ryan Buckley ; g>
Sent: Friday, January 14, 2022 2:44 PM
To: Diane Burgis; John Gioia; District5; Karen Mitchoff; Supervisor Candace Andersen; Clerk of the Board
Cc: tina; Tyler Snortum-Phelps
Subject: Comment on Building Electrification Ordinance for 1-18-22 BOS meeting
Attachments: SCOCO BOS Letter.pdf

Chair and Members of the Contra Costa Board of Supervisors,

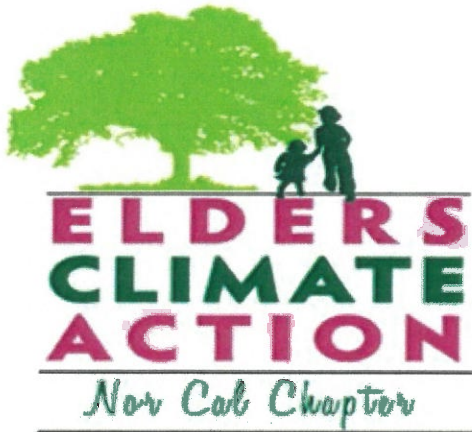
Please find attached a letter from Sustainable Contra Costa in support of the Building Electrification Ordinance.

Regards,

Ryan Buckley

Board of Directors
[Sustainable Contra Costa](#)
(510) 325-7039

From: Sheila Tarbet <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, January 14, 2022 4:23 PM
To: Diane Burgis; John Gioia; District5; Karen Mitchoff; Supervisor Candace Andersen
Cc: Clerk of the Board
Subject: Comment on Building Electrification Ordinance for 1-18-22 BOS meeting
Attachments: Ltr support CCC reach code electrification.docx



January 14, 2022

To Chair of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, Supervisor Mischoff, and to Supervisors Anderson, Gioia, Burgis, and Glover,

I am a resident of El Cerrito, and I'm very concerned about the climate emergency and the steady warming of our planet. Due to my concern, I'm a member of Elders Climate Action, a national organization, and a co-leader of our local NorCal ECA chapter. I am also a member of El Cerrito's Environmental Quality Committee, which reports to the City Council, as well as volunteer environmental project lead at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, located in Kensington in Contra Costa County.

In my role as a co-leader of our Elders Climate Action NorCal Chapter, I'm writing to support draft ordinance NO. 2022-02 to require certain newly constructed buildings to be all electric. I want to express our chapter's full support for this draft ordinance. We urge you to adopt this ordinance and implement it as soon as possible. We approve of the staff recommendation to implement the ordinance as of June 1, 2022.

Thank you for passing the Climate Emergency Resolution and authorizing the development of this ordinance. I know that the County Sustainability Commission unanimously supports this building electrification policy, as do many community members, neighbors, and community groups.

Elders Climate Action is working to promote policies to address the climate crisis at all levels of government across the country so that our children and grandchildren can have a livable future. We know that "electrifying everything" is one huge, constructive step we can take to restore the damage done to our climate by our dependency on fossil fuels. I personally will be so proud of our County if you take this very powerful step forward to address the climate crisis.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sheila F. Tarbet
Volunteer Co-Leader
Elders Climate Action (ECA), Northern California (NorCal) Chapter
515 Ashbury Avenue
El Cerrito, CA 94530

From: Laura Feinstein
Sent: Friday, January 14, 2022 5:14 PM
To: Diane Burgis; John Gioia; District5; Karen Mitchoff; Supervisor Candace Andersen; Clerk of the Board
Cc: Leah Louis-Prescott; Melissa Yu
Subject: Subject: Comment on Building Electrification Ordinance for 1-18-22 BOS meeting
Attachments: Letter Contra Costa.pdf

To the Board of Supervisors and Clerk of the Board,

Please find attached a comment letter from SPUR, Sierra Club, and RMI on the building electrification reach code. Have a great weekend.

Best,

Laura Feinstein

—
Laura Feinstein, PhD (she • her • they)
Sustainability and Resilience Policy Director
! _____
1.510.827.1286 (google voice)
lfeinstein@spur.org

SPUR

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SIERRA CLUB
SAN FRANCISCO BAY



1/18/2022

Subject: Comment on Building Electrification Ordinance for 1-18-22 BOS meeting

Dear Chair Mitchoff and Supervisors Anderson, Burgis, Gioia and Glover;

On behalf of the organizations signed below, I am writing in support of Ordinance Number 2022-02 to require new construction to be all-electric. Our organizations recognize that climate change threatens the health and well-being of people and ecosystems, with the greatest impacts felt by the most vulnerable communities.

It is urgent that this ordinance be adopted and implemented as soon as possible. The last Contra Costa County Climate Action Plan attributed 28% of emissions to buildings. Curbing these emissions is critical to reducing emissions as laid out in the County's Climate Action Plan.

We thank the Board for authorizing the development of an all-electric reach code for new construction and committing to adopt it when they passed the Climate Emergency Resolution. The Board's action on this item is aligned with the Contra Costa Sustainability Commission, which unanimously supported a Building Electrification policy.

Sincerely,

Laura Feinstein, Ph.D.
Sustainability and Resilience Policy Director, SPUR

Melissa Yu
Sierra Club, SF Bay Chapter Conservation Program Coordinator

Leah Louis-Prescott
Senior Associate, RMI

To:

Diane.Burgis@bos.cccounty.us

John.Gioia@bos.cccounty.us

District5@bos.cccounty.us

Karen.Mitchoff@bos.cccounty.us

SupervisorAndersen@bos.cccounty.us

Clerkoftheboard@cob.cccounty.us

From: Amanda Millstein <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, January 15, 2022 7:08 AM
To: Diane Burgis; John Gioia; District5; Karen Mitchoff; Supervisor Candace Andersen
Cc: Clerk of the Board
Subject: Comment on Building Electrification Ordinance for 1-18-22 BOS meeting.

Dear Chair Mitchoff and Supervisors Anderson, Burgis, Gioia and Glover,

My name is Amanda Millstein, MD. I am a pediatrician practicing in Contra Costa County and also a resident of the country, raising my two young children here.

I am writing to express my strong support for the Building Electrification Ordinance.

As a pediatrician in our County, I see the ways in which climate change -- and local air pollution caused by fossil fuels -- are impacting the health of babies, children, and teenagers in our county. Building electrification is important for the health and safety of our County's residents and a vital step toward mitigating the climate crisis, which poses an existential threat to health.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue -- though I work my hardest to protect the health of children in our county in my clinic every day, your leadership and action here has the potential to protect and prevent harm in a much larger way than what I can accomplish in my clinic.

Sincerely,
Amanda Millstein, MD

From: Jan Warren
Sent: Saturday, January 15, 2022 6:27 PM
To: Diane Burgis
Subject: Comment on Jan. 18, 2022 Item D2 Adoption & Amendment to Ordinance No 2022-02

Happy New Year,

The Interfaith Climate Action Network of CCC supports the Contra Costa Building Electrification Ordinance for New Buildings as another significant step to meet the County's Climate Action Goals.

To require electric power in new residential housing, hotels, offices, and retail buildings will move us one step closer to decarbonizing our economy.

We already know how natural gas in indoor spaces contributes to respiratory ailments such as asthma, such that children living in homes with gas cooking are 42% more likely to develop asthma.

What we build or install today affects the future for years because it is part of our "infrastructure". In addition electricity has proven to be a more efficient energy source than natural gas.

I encourage the Board to educate and encourage residents who live in existing housing to begin the transition to all electric homes. Half Moon Bay has a proposed Ordinance that will require electric retrofits for various types of remodels.

By encouraging training for our building trades and offering resources we can all be part of creating a cleaner County.

Thanks for your leadership

Jan Warren

Chair, Interfaith Climate Action Network of CCC

San Francisco, CA 94598

Walnut Creek, CA 94598

From: Marcia L. <[redacted]>
Sent: Sunday, January 16, 2022 11:11 AM
Cc: Clerk of the Board
Subject: Comment on Building Electrification Ordinances for 1//18/22 BOS meeting
Attachments: download.svg

It is important that this ordinance be adopted and implemented as soon as possible. Staff are proposing 6/1/22 as the implementation start date. The last County Climate Action Plan attributed 28% of emissions to buildings and reducing emissions in buildings is a critical step for our County to prioritize as this ordinance does. The Sustainability Commission unanimously supported the Building Electrification policy, and many community members and groups have also come out in support of this.

Our world is burning up and I care about what is happening on our local level. I am a member of 350 Contra Costa County.

Thank you.

Marcia Liberson
[redacted], Walnut Creek 95495

From: cynthia mahoney < net>
Sent: Sunday, January 16, 2022 12:13 PM
To: District5
Cc: Clerk of the Board
Subject: Comment In Favor of Building Electrification Ordinance for 1-18-22 BOS meeting

Dear Federal.

The members of Contra Costa Citizens Climate Lobby want to add our voices in support of the **Contra Costa Building Electrification Ordinance for New Buildings**. Although our primary focus has been on the strategy of putting a price on carbon pollution with carbon cashback to all Americans, our goal is to preserve a liveable world. That now requires vigorous action in all sectors and at all levels of government.

Passing the **Contra Costa Building Electrification Ordinance for New Buildings** is essential to meeting the climate goals of the county. The state of CA and the US are not on track to meet the goal of 50% emissions reductions by 2030. Reducing GHG emissions 50% by 2030 is just the minimum goal to stay within 1.5°C of warming. If anything, our targets will need to be ramped up, as we are in a Code Red for humanity with climate impacts accelerating even faster than scientists have predicted.

That is why it is important that the ordinance be adopted and implemented as soon as possible.

Ωε thank the Board for committing to do this when you passed the Climate Emergency Resolution and voted to authorize development of this ordinance, which was unanimously supported by the Sustainability Commission, and had strong support from community members when the ordinance was introduced at the 12/14/21 BoS meeting.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Mahoney MD and Bill Olsen;
Co-leads, Contra Costa Citizens Climate Lobby.

From: Denice A Dennis <denice.dennis@denisonail.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 16, 2022 5:04 PM
To: Karen Mitchoff; Diane Burgis; District5; Supervisor Candace Andersen; John Gioia
Cc: Clerk of the Board
Subject: Item D2 Building Electrification 1/18 Board meeting

Dear Chair Mitchoff and members of the Board,

Thank you for your Climate Emergency Resolution commitment to moving an Electrification Ordinance forward for New Buildings. Please take action to move adoption and set 6/1/22 for full implementation of the ordinance.

New Building Electrification has been unanimously supported by the Sustainability Commission and the Board voted in favor of this policy in September after robust discussion by the Sustainability Committee.

In order to have the best possible outcomes for people and our planet, we need to do a great deal over the next 6-8 years to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It is clear that we need to depend on local governmental actions to get where we need to be.

Any analysis of the costs of building electrification (or other climate emergency actions) needs to examine the costs of continued emissions on the health and safety of our children and grandchildren.

Toward health for all,
Denice Dennis
Volunteer, 1000 Grandmothers for Future Generations

.

From: Ogie Strogatz < [REDACTED] >
Sent: Sunday, January 16, 2022 7:37 PM
To: Diane Burgis; John Gioia; District5; Karen Mitchoff; Supervisor Candace Andersen
Cc: Clerk of the Board
Subject: Ordinance No. 2022-02: all-electric, newly constructed buildings

Dear Chair Mitchoff and Supervisors Andersen, Burgis, Gioia and Glover,

I'm writing to convey my strong support for the subject ordinance.

I am grateful that you committed to authorizing the development of this ordinance when you passed the County Climate Emergency Resolution. I note that the Sustainability Commission unanimously supported the Building Electrification policy, and many community members and groups also have stepped up to express their support.

Last Friday, 1/14/22, I attended a [webinar hosted by Acterra, "Code Red for Humanity: What Municipalities Can Do"](#). The content included calls to action for county supervisors as well as mayors, city council members, and individuals. I was reminded that we are lagging significantly behind in our efforts to respond to global warming, and that county and local level electrification initiatives play a pivotal role in GHG emission reduction.

It is crucial that this ordinance be adopted and implemented as soon as possible, with staff proposing 6/1/22 as the implementation start date. The last County Climate Action Plan attributed 28% of greenhouse gas emissions to buildings. Reducing emissions in buildings is a critical step for our County to address the climate crisis.

Please approve Ordinance No. 2022-02.

Respectfully,

Ogie Strogatz
350 Contra Costa
Sunrise Bay Area, "35+" Elders

From: Marti Roach <
Sent: Monday, January 17, 2022 10:11 AM
To: Karen Mitchoff; Diane Burgis; District5; Supervisor Candace Andersen; John Gioia
Cc: martiroach@gmail.com; Clerk of the Board
Subject: Item D2 Building Electrification 1/18 Board meeting

Dear Chair Mitchoff and Supervisors Anderson, Burgis, Gioia and Glover,
There is still a significant gap in the level of emissions reductions needed to stave off the worst, and most likely catastrophic, impacts of global warming. All governments, at all scales, are part of the possibility that we can achieve the reductions in greenhouse gases that we need. By recognizing this reality and passing your Climate Emergency Resolution, you brought Contra Costa County into the fold of leaders that commit to bold action to address this situation. Thank you.

Passing the New Building Electrification Ordinance is a vital step to enact your commitment. Thank you for moving on this and for moving it forward swiftly.

The tremendous transformation in our energy systems is not an easy path or a straightforward one. It requires many actions at once like preparing the grid for more clean electricity transfer as we (hopefully rapidly) electrify our buildings and transport. This is a challenge we must take on.

Many existing businesses reliant on the current fossil fuel energy system will resist this and push to slow the path of transition. It is your job, and we stand behind you, to help us transition fast for healthier, safer communities and a new economy based on clean energy.

With respect and appreciation for your service to our County,

-Marti Roach

925-376-3853

350ContraCosta.org

350BayAreaAction.org

[Join the Contra Costa Climate Action Network!](#)

WHY 350? "If humanity wishes to preserve a planet similar to that on which civilization developed and to which life on Earth is adapted, paleoclimate evidence and ongoing climate change suggest that CO2 will need to be reduced from current levels (411) to at most 350 ppm." -**Dr. James Hansen**

From: Karen Leung <[REDACTED]@contra.com>
Sent: Monday, January 17, 2022 4:53 PM
To: Diane Burgis; John Gioia; District5; Karen Mitchoff; Supervisor Candace Andersen
Cc: Clerk of the Board
Subject: Contra Costa Building Electrification Ordinance

Dear Chair Mitchoff and Supervisors Anderson, Burgis, Gioia and Glover,

As someone who was born and raised in Contra Costa County and came back after college to raise my 2 children in this county, I feel it's extremely important that our county, as part of the SF Bay Area, leads by example and does everything we can to mitigate the disastrous effects of climate change. I therefore, strongly support passing of the Building Electrification Ordinance for New Buildings with the 6/1/22 implementation start date. It's clear from the last County Climate Action Plan that building emissions are a significant portion of climate warming emissions (28%) and moving to full electrification of all future buildings will significantly lower building emission levels. Electrifying buildings will not only reduce emissions, but should also make future buildings safer during future earthquakes by reducing the chances of burst/leaking gas lines and associated fire danger.

Thank you so much for already committing to the Climate Emergency Resolution. And when considering this new building electrification ordinance, please keep in mind that the Sustainability Commission unanimously supported the Building Electrification policy, along with much of the community.

I'm grateful for everything you have already done to move us towards a more sustainable future for all of us, but especially future generations.

Sincerely,
Karen Leung

[\[REDACTED\]@contra.com](#)

From: Amanda Millstein <amillstein@contra-costa-il.com>
Sent: Monday, January 17, 2022 7:23 PM
To: Diane Burgis; John Gioia; District5; Karen Mitchoff; Supervisor Candace Andersen
Cc: Clerk of the Board
Subject: Comment on Building Electrification Ordinance for 1-18-22 BOS Meeting from Climate Health Now
Attachments: CCBoS_Electrification_Letter from CHN 2022.01.18.pdf

Dear Chair Mitchoff and Supervisors Anderson, Burgis, Gioia and Glover,

Attached please find a letter in strong support of the Building Electrification Ordinance from Climate Health Now. We are a group of over 500 health professionals in California working to advance policies to promote climate, health and equity. Many of our members are residents of Contra Costa County.

We thank you all for your service and work and your leadership in protecting our climate and health.

Sincerely,
Cynthia Mahoney, MD, Amanda Millstein, MD, and Ashley McClure, MD
On Behalf of Climate Health Now

Subject : Health Professionals Comment In Favor of Building Electrification Ordinance
for 1-18-22 BOS meeting



Jan 18, 2022

Supervisor Diane Burgis, Chair of the Board
Supervisor Federal Glover, Vice Chair of the Board
Supervisor Candace Andersen
Supervisor John Gioia
Supervisor Karen Mitchoff

cc Clerk of the board

Dear Chair Burgis and members of the Board,

We are writing on behalf of Climate Health Now, an organization of over 500 health professionals throughout California, in support of the **Contra Costa Building Electrification Ordinance for New Buildings**. Many of us are here in Contra Costa County, including the first two authors of this letter. We thank the Board for committing to do this when you passed the Climate Emergency Resolution and voted to authorize development of this ordinance. The ordinance was unanimously supported by the Sustainability Commission, and had strong support from community members when it was introduced at the 12/14/21 BoS meeting. **We urge you to pass this ordinance at the Jan 18, 2022 BoS meeting, and implement it as soon as possible.**

Over 45 California cities and counties have adopted new building electrification “reach” codes over the past few years. It is time for Contra Costa to join them. In addition to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, these ordinances lead to buildings that are healthier and safer for the community.

As health care professionals, we are on the frontlines of the climate health emergency and treat the adverse health effects of fossil fuel combustion. It is our expert opinion that electrification of buildings will have multiple health benefits for our county.

Health benefits of this ordinance are both immediate - related to air pollution - and long term - related to climate change. [Please see details in our previous letter of August 2, 2021 in support of creating the ordinance.](#)

In summary:

1- Immediate health benefits of building electrification to decrease pollution.

Building Electrification will improve health immediately by removing exposure to toxic indoor pollution that contributes to childhood asthma. This is especially important in Contra Costa, with our F grade for particle pollution and D for ozone and our hot spots for pollution near refineries and heavy traffic areas. As expected, air quality is worsening as climate change progresses with both heat related increases in ozone and particulates, and increasing wildfires brought on by heat and drought. The wildfire smoke of the past few years adds to the burden of particle pollution, making it only more imperative that we control the pollution that we can. COVID adds to the burden of lung damage, with the burden born disproportionately by communities of color. We should be doing everything we can to decrease pollution where we can and as quickly as possible.

2- Building Electrification is essential to reach our greenhouse gas emissions goals. Climate Change is a human health emergency, and according to the Lancet and the latest IPCC reports, we are in a Code Red for humanity. Reducing GHG emissions 50% by 2030 is just the minimum goal to stay within 1.5°C of warming. If anything, our targets will need to be ramped up, as 2021 demonstrated that climate impacts are accelerating even faster than scientists have predicted. Neither the state of California nor the U.S. are on track to meet the goal of 50% emissions reductions by 2030. Buildings in Contra Costa account for 28% of our County's emissions, so this is an excellent way to make progress on emissions reductions at the local level. Continuing to build out new gas infrastructure will make it impossible to meet our emissions reduction targets, and contribute to more methane gas leakage - which is an extremely potent greenhouse gas.

On behalf of our patients and their families, we ask that you pass the **Contra Costa Building Electrification Ordinance for New Buildings** and implement it as quickly as possible, but no later than June 2022.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Mahoney, MD and Amanda Millstein, MD and Ashley McClure, M
On behalf of Climate Health Now

From: Brenden Millstein < .edu>
Sent: Monday, January 17, 2022 8:30 PM
To: Diane Burgis; John Gioia; District5; Karen Mitchoff; Supervisor Candace Andersen
Cc: Clerk of the Board
Subject: Comment in Support of Building Electrification Ordinance for 1-18-22 BOS

Hi, I hope this note finds you well.

I am writing to voice support of the Building Electrification Ordinance, and state my desire for the ordinance to be adopted and implemented as soon as possible. I believe the issue is simple: if we do not stop burning fossil fuels, we will pay hundreds of billions of dollars in additional costs for wildfires, droughts, increased housing costs, not to mention healthcare costs for spread of vector-borne disease (mosquito breeding seasons are temperature dependent). California has already spent an average of \$15 *billion* per year the past few years in wildfire-related damage. This will only get worse. The electric grid is becoming ever more renewable rapidly. Natural gas is not, and we are discovering more problems with methane leaks by the month.

Take action. Lead. Reduce our reliance on fossil fuels. The economic cost of inaction is far too great. Thank you.

Best,
Brenden

From: Nancy Hu <
Sent: Tuesday, January 18, 2022 9:30 AM
To: Diane Burgis; John Gioia; District5; Karen Mitchoff; Supervisor Candace Andersen; Clerk of the Board
Subject: Support for Ordinance on Building Electrification

Dear County Board of Supervisors,

Thank you so much for working on this important matter of electrifying new buildings within unincorporated Contra Costa County. I want to express my strong support for the ordinance, and am glad to see the date of implementation so soon.

I look forward to in the near future we can also count on your leadership for addressing retrofits as we decarbonize our existing buildings.

Thank you again.

Respectfully,
Nancy Hu
Lafayette resident and mom
Chair, Lafayette Environmental Task Force
Climate Reality Project