

Hello Joint Task Force on Resilient Efficient Buildings,

In order for the State of Oregon to reach its 2035 and 2050 GHG reduction goals, the State will need to significantly reduce natural gas use for heating homes and businesses. In addition to incentivizing heat pumps, Please consider the following two policies:

- 1) A ban on new natural gas hook-ups for all building types
- 2) A ban on the sale and installation of natural gas appliances for homes and businesses (implemented by 2030 at the latest).

Please see research from Energy Innovation and their Oregon Energy Policy Simulator showing that the State will not reach its 2050 GHG targets without a ban on the sale and installation of natural gas heating equipment beginning by 2030 (pg 13 - "Buildings" section under "Policy Options for Deep Decarbonization").

The research states that, "The majority of emissions reductions are attributed to strong building electrification policies leading to 100 percent sales of electric building components by 2030, which also offer consumer fuel savings and health benefits ²¹. Electric heat pumps have been shown to be more efficient than their fossil fuel burning, water heating counterparts, and induction stovetops are more efficient and improve indoor air quality by reducing polluting gas fumes ²²."

Research: <https://energyinnovation.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Oregon-Energy-Policy-Simulator-Insights.pdf>

The article below based on the research states : "the most important policy for cutting greenhouse gas emissions from buildings would be a building code or standard requiring all new buildings or building equipment to be electric by 2030. This policy alone achieves over 10 percent of all the NDC Scenario's reductions."

Article: <https://energynews.us/2022/05/17/commentary-oregon-must-take-action-to-stay-in-the-race-to-cut-emissions/>

Please act with the utmost urgency in reducing GHG emissions as fast as the science says is necessary (which is even faster than the State adopted target which is based on avoiding 2 C, rather than 1.5 C, temperature increase). Ask yourself this, in 20 years is it more likely you will regret having moved too fast to reduce GHG emissions or regret having not moved fast enough?

Please work to phase out all installation and sales of gas appliances by 2030 at the latest and start by banning new gas hookups.

Thank you,

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