

From: Meghan Anderson <cwclimatenews@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 25, 2022 11:13 AM
To: DES SBCC <sbcc@des.wa.gov>
Subject: Comments for SBCC on banning natural gas and heat pump incentive

External Email

Greeting code officials,

I have worked my career in the architectural field and retired in Ellensburg. I have studied climate issues for years and organized a group in our County to advocate for emissions reductions. The Ellensburg natural gas utility will be a covered entity under the Climate Commitment Act.

In coordination with the Climate Commitment Act, we need this code council to utilize its authority to stop natural gas in new construction.

Code cycle adoptions by counties, lag significantly behind code development. For instance, the 2018 building codes were just adopted in Kittitas County last year, 4 years behind the current code development. This is the typical adoption timeframe, which is 3-4 or 5 years behind the 'current' code cycle. This fact will put all our efforts to decarbonize buildings at risk of not meeting the 2030 milestone emissions reductions.

Consider making emergency amendments to the 2018 building and energy codes. In this way, we can begin actions now, rather than 'hoping' counties adopt codes faster, or adopt future codes at all.

While it may cost more installing heat pump systems than natural gas counterparts, costs of using these electric appliances are up to half the operating costs of the highest efficiency natural gas furnaces, and also provide air conditioning. Customers, as a result of these facts, are better served by up-front costs which can be incorporated as a part of initial financing.

In Ellensburg, right now, developers are required to install natural gas to each home they construct. This costs the developer thousands extra per home and ultimately the customer pays these sunk costs.

The 2050 Institute released a white paper last month titled "Operation 2030". Their analytics indicate that electrification of the built environment will save the state \$34 billion dollars by 2050. Gas remaining in buildings, even if decarbonized gas, is enormously costly for Washington by 2050.

It is imperative to ban gas from new construction as soon as possible.

Thank you for listening and your important work.

Meghan Anderson
Ellensburg, WA
509-591-7874