



Tell the State Building Code to Reject Restrictions on Energy Choice

HBA Talking Points

State Building Code Process

- It is not the SBCC's charge to ban gas use or to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. **There is NO legislative directive** to do so either – HB 1084 was not passed during the 2021 Legislative Session. This is a major overstep of authority.
- The Technical Advisory Group (TAG) members let political agendas influence technical decisions and legislative responsibilities and blatantly disregarded expert technical testimony by the utilities (the only subject-matter experts in the meetings).
- TAG process ignored technical and economic realities such as the lack of available product in the water heating category.

Heat Pump SPACE Heating Proposal (21-GP1-103)

- Eliminates the choice of highly efficient and cost-effective gas options and prescriptively mandates only one energy choice.
- Will require heat pump upgrades when updating existing systems in existing buildings
- Will add cost – Electric heat pumps increase installed cost compared to equivalent gas heating equipment. Even higher increased cost for retrofit projects when electrical system has to be upgraded.
 - **If applied to residential construction: Adds \$8,000 to the cost of constructing an average single-family home**

Heat Pump WATER Heating Proposal (21-GP1-136)

- Eliminates the choice of highly efficient and cost-effective gas water heating options and prescriptively mandates only one choice.
- Will add cost, require more space and be more expensive than other options.
 - **If applied to residential construction: Adds \$2,600 to the cost of constructing an average single-family home**
- It adds both installation and operating cost — life cycle cost increase of \$2.43/square foot.
- There are too few manufacturers of commercial grade equipment

Electric Receptacle at Gas Appliances Proposal (21-GP1-179)

- It increases design and construction costs for multi-family buildings and their associated energy infrastructure -- **Makes multi-family housing less affordable**
- It does NOT save any energy or reduce emissions.

General - Natural Gas and Electrification

- Natural gas utilities and transmission pipelines in Washington serve warmth and comfort to **3.5 million residential consumers** and deliver heat and productive energy to more than 100,000 commercial businesses and 3,500 industrial facilities that employ hundreds of thousands of Washingtonians.



- Residential consumers and commercial businesses that use natural gas – those that rely upon the vast majority of the natural gas delivery system – **account for less than 10% of the state’s total GHG emissions.**
- **The electrical grid can’t support a full ban on natural gas.** Natural gas supplies 15% of the electricity consumed in Washington.
 - There is no coherent plan to replace the natural gas energy that total electrification will remove from the region’s diverse energy portfolio without risking blackouts and price hikes to businesses and ratepayers.
- Full-scale electrification will drive business and jobs out of the Pacific Northwest. **It will increase the cost of homes (multi-family included) – especially when you consider the legislative directive of installing electric vehicle charging stations throughout the state – including in newly built single-family homes (adding an added cost of approximately \$2,500).**

Every \$1,000 increase in the cost of building a new home prices more than 2,500 people out of homeownership in Washington.



Instructions for Members Providing Verbal Testimony

1. Introduce yourself
 - Good morning council, my name is ____.
2. Introduce who you're speaking on behalf of
 - Today I am speaking on behalf of _____.
3. State what you're speaking about and whether you support or oppose
 - I am here today to voice my opposition regarding the following proposals: 21-GP1-103, 21-GP1-136, and 21-GP1-179.
4. Provide reasons and illustrate arguments (It's always a great idea to add a "humanistic" touch if you can)
 - **Choose talking points from above**