

NATURAL GAS AND THE BUILDING CODE

MYTH

Natural gas is banned in the Washington State Energy Code - Residential.

FACT

No code restrictions were adopted for natural gas powered appliances such as fireplaces, oven ranges, kitchen appliances, barbeques, and backup generators.

Natural gas furnaces and water heaters are still technically allowed in the WSEC-Residential but come with a disadvantage of -3 energy credits, making it harder and more costly to achieve compliance.



As of July 1, 2023 heat pumps will be required to power space and water heating equipment.

- The WSEC-Residential language allows for heat pumps to be powered by natural gas, not just electricity.
- Allows natural gas to service backup or supplemental heating appliances.