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The [Renewable Heat Now Campaign](#) has issued the following statement in response to the [final draft Climate Action Scoping Plan](#), which was approved by the Climate Action Council on Monday 12/19/22.

The Renewable Heat Now Campaign thanks the Climate Action Council for their three years of difficult work hammering out a Climate Plan for NY. In spite of intense lobbying by the fossil fuel industry, the plan makes it clear that the path forward for decarbonizing NY's 6 million buildings is through energy efficiency and electrification with ground source and air heat pumps, efficient electric appliances, and thermal energy networks.

The Climate Plan provides a road map, and now we must turn to implementation. Significant policy provisions must be enacted and funding designated this year if we are to make good on New York's carbon emission reduction mandates.

We call on Governor Hochul and the legislature to include these bills in the budget:

- [All-Electric Building Act](#) (S6843C/A8431B of 2022) Kavanagh/Gallagher
- [Gas Transition and Affordable Energy Act](#) (S8198/A9329 of 2022) Krueger/Fahy
- [Energy Efficiency, Equity, and Jobs Act](#) (S3126C/A3996C of 2022) Parker/Hunter

In addition to policy changes, new funding is badly needed to overcome barriers to electrification of existing buildings. We call on Governor Hochul to allocate \$2 billion for a Green Affordable Pre-Electrification (GAP) Fund for low-to-moderate Income households, \$900 million for zero interest loans for electrification and pre-electrification, and \$20 million to strengthen NYSERDA's recently announced Regional Clean Energy Hubs so they have the resources to help connect people to these funding opportunities.

Safe, healthful, affordable all-electric buildings and a managed, equitable, timely transition off the gas system is in the best interest of all New Yorkers. Every new building hooked up to expensive, polluting gas unnecessarily undermines New Yorkers' health and energy affordability.

WHY ELECTRIFY BUILDINGS?

CLIMATE

- Buildings account for [32% of New York State's emissions](#), so removing fossil fuels from buildings is critical to meeting the state's emissions goals. These emissions come from burning fossil fuels for heating, hot water, and cooking, as well as the methane leaks along the gas distribution system.
- Ground source and air source heat pumps and thermal energy networks use electricity and refrigerant technology to heat more efficiently. The Climate Action Council has estimated that we need to install heat pumps in at least 1.5 million buildings by 2030 to meet the State's legally mandated emissions reduction targets.

HEALTH

- New York leads the nation in premature deaths caused by the air pollution from burning fossil fuels in buildings (around 1,000 early deaths/year).
- Gas stoves can cause and trigger asthma and worsen respiratory illnesses like COVID-19. For example, children living in homes with gas stoves have a 42% higher risk of experiencing asthma symptoms.
- Low income and communities of color suffer the worst health impacts from indoor air pollution.
- The Climate Action Council (CAC) estimated that "decarbonizing New York can result in a substantial health benefits from improved air quality, on the order of \$50 billion to \$120 billion from 2020 through 2050 (based on reduced mortality and other health outcomes), plus \$40 billion associated with the health benefits of increased active transportation, and \$9 billion in health benefits associated with energy efficiency interventions in LMI homes.

ENERGY AFFORDABILITY

- Fossil fuel prices are spiking due to global events, and one in five New Yorker households are behind on their utility bills right now.
- New buildings, built to higher efficiency standards and outfitted with heat pumps, provide affordable heating, air conditioning, and hot water.
- Public Service Law currently requires existing gas customers to pay for costly gas infrastructure expansion. Gas line extensions add 170,000 customers to the gas system costing NY ratepayers \$1 billion over 5 years.

JOBS AND ECONOMY

- Electrifying and weatherizing our buildings will create 140,000-152,000 new well-paying jobs that are impossible to outsource by 2030, and 240,000-243,000 by 2050.
- Thermal energy networks are large infrastructure projects favored by the trades unions that can provide long lasting, low maintenance, networked utility owned building decarbonization systems.
- \$36 billion of the \$61 billion New Yorkers annually pay for energy flows out of state, draining wealth from the state's economy. Heat pump installations will keep more of the dollars we spend on energy in New York.

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