



The Fossil-Free Buildings Legislative Package

WHAT: The Renewable Heat Now 2023 Legislative Package

The All-Electric Building Act

This bill requires new buildings to be constructed without fossil fuel combustion systems or appliances. Building codes will be modernized to require new buildings to be all-electric and highly efficient, starting in 2024 with buildings under seven stories and by 2027 for larger buildings.

NY HEAT (Home Energy Affordable Transition) Act

This bill eliminates subsidies for new gas hookups (the “100 foot rule”), enables neighborhood scale building decarbonization by eliminating the “obligation to serve” gas, and protects low- and moderate-income families by ensuring no household pays more than 6% of their income for energy.

The Energy Efficiency, Equity, and Jobs Act

This bill deploys funding for cost-saving energy efficiency retrofits in low-income communities and communities of color. It allows NYSERDA to fund non-energy measures like lead and mold remediation to remove barriers to efficiency upgrades in older homes, and ensures that the workers hired for energy efficiency upgrades come from disadvantaged communities.

2023 Budget Agenda

This Budget Agenda recommends three funding priorities: creation of a Green Affordable Pre-Electrification (GAP) Fund, strengthening of NYSERDA’s Regional Clean Energy Hubs, and directing NYSERDA’s Green Jobs Green New York Program to establish 0% loans for weatherization and electrification. It provides New Yorkers with comprehensive access to the programs and resources they need to weatherize and electrify their homes. These three budget items are also found in the Climate and Community Protection Fund, NY RENEWS budget bill.



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WHY: The Benefits of Fossil Free Buildings



Climate

Buildings are NY's largest source of greenhouse gas emissions, caused by burning fossil fuels for heating, hot water, and cooking, and methane leaks along the gas fracking and distribution system. Our state is already affected by the climate crisis: powerful storms, rising sea levels, and extreme heat and cold, damage homes, infrastructure, industry, and agriculture, and health. The solution is electrification of heat and power. 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.



Energy Affordability

Fossil fuel prices are spiking due to global events and rising industry profits, and one in five New York 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 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.



Health and Safety

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. A recent RMI study found that in New York, "nearly 19% of current childhood asthma can be attributed to gas stove use, which is comparable to children's risk of being exposed to secondhand smoke." Low income and communities of color suffer the worst health impacts from indoor air pollution.



Jobs and Economy

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