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Subject: A2 Ban NG for New Construction



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Ban New Natural Gas Connections in Ann Arbor

Late January 2023

If not now, when?

Reaching the deep carbonization goals of 75% or greater in greenhouse gas emissions will require eliminating most or all of the CO₂ produced by furnaces and water heaters across the country, alongside other measures. Achieving this vision will require massive market transformation, including discontinuing the expansion of the gas distribution system, widespread adoption of new electric appliance in homes and businesses, and a hardened grid.



Electrify Everything

Decarbonization requires electrification. When connected to a grid, everything you use that runs on electricity is, in carbon/climate terms, as clean as that grid. That means that as long as we continue to reduce carbon on the grid, every single electrical device is getting cleaner throughout its life. A natural gas furnace's rate of emission is basically fixed by its design. It will emit the same level of carbon emissions per unit of heat throughout its 20-year lifespan.

Electrical grids are giant levers that can move the environmental needle on hundreds of millions of distributed technologies at once. Every device that runs on electricity benefits from the grid's every incremental improvement. Improvement is continuous and far faster than tech running on fossil fuels. Vox



Why gas stoves matter to the climate – and the gas industry: Keeping them means homes will use gas for heating too

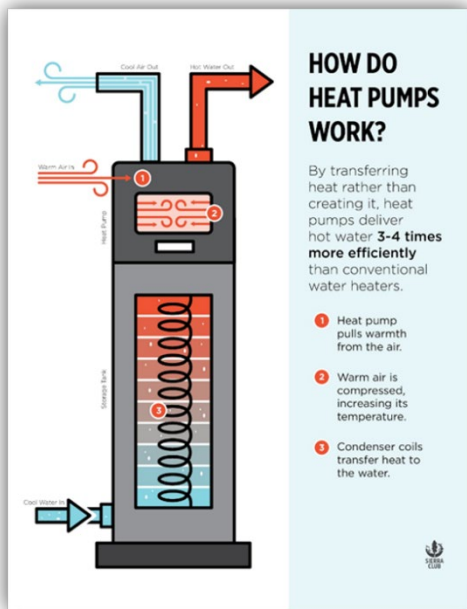
Installing more-efficient furnaces, better insulation and smart thermostats are helpful first steps, but getting close to zero will require switching to electricity for space heating and water heating. In the U.S., 46% of homes use natural gas as their main source of heat, 40% use electricity, 10% use other fuels such as heating oil or propane, and 4% are unheated. For water heating, the percentages are 47% gas, 47% electricity and 6% other fuels.

Today, electric and gas heating have similar carbon footprints, since roughly 60% of U.S. electricity is generated from fossil fuels and many homes use inefficient electric resistance heaters. But the emissions intensity of electricity is rapidly declining as coal plants close and solar and wind power expands. Planet Detroit



2023 Tax Credit Available Now

Rewiring America has put together a one-stop-shop list of 2023 tax credits that are active right now. Rewiring America



Why heaters are the future of cooling: heat pumps.

5 minute video. The way we now heat our homes and buildings is one of the biggest contributors to climate change. But a solution may actually come from consumers looking to buy AC for the first time. They're a huge market for a different kind of system: the electric heat pump. A heat pump works like a two-way air conditioner, using electricity and a chemical refrigerant to transfer heat either into or out of a building. Instead of using fossil fuels to generate heat, it uses

electricity to transfer heat, and it does it efficiently. Vox



Experts say updating Michigan's building code may be key for meeting climate goals. Here's why.

The Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) seems poised to implement an updated building energy code that follows the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) rules, delivering substantial energy savings in the decades to come. LARA first needs to take the updated standards to the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules, a body composed of Michigan House and Senate members who have several weeks to recommend possible changes. However, the agency is not required to accept these recommendations.

The proposed rules largely adopt the 2021 IECC code with essentially no watering down or very little watering down. It will put Michigan in pretty good shape for energy efficient and electrification-ready building codes. Planet Detroit.



How the gas industry defeats local natural gas bans

The Seattle City Council was considering a natural gas ban in new construction. Local plumbers and pipe fitters warned of job losses. Realtors complained their clients would still want gas fireplaces. Building owners feared utility bills could soar. The effort died. The ban wasn't politically tenable, it seemed. But internal records show the measure's defeat and the "wall of opposition" that advocates experienced were part of a sophisticated pushback plan from Seattle's gas supplier.

The gas utilities are facing an existential threat, and instead of approaching a decarbonizing economy as an opportunity to reinvent themselves, they're digging their heels in and going back to the age-old tactics of the fossil fuel industry. Guardian