

## ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE HH

The pandemic and global warming are the twin crises of our lifetimes. Both have enormous economic impacts, disproportionately harm low-income and marginalized communities, and require collective action.

Voting YES on Measure HH will speed up reductions in greenhouse gas emissions while reducing energy costs for thousands of Berkeley residents and kickstarting a green economic recovery.

Berkeley made history by passing a Climate Action Plan, a Climate Emergency Declaration and a Fossil Free Resolution. But we are falling short on reducing global warming pollution and our plan needs funding. Measure HH could fund projects and programs that:

- Transition existing buildings to clean electricity;
- Expand clean transportation alternatives such as shared electric vehicles, and bicycle and pedestrian improvements; and
- Implement energy efficiency and resiliency measures for homes and businesses.

The Fund would prioritize equity and environmental justice by ensuring that low-income families, seniors, renters, and small businesses hit hardest by the pandemic realize lower energy costs *and* benefit from the green economy.

Measure HH would:

- Eliminate the Utility User Tax on gas and electricity for the nearly 5,000 low-income Berkeley residents who enroll in California's CARE or FERA programs, saving them an average of \$160 per year, and
- Increase the natural gas and electric portion of the utility users' tax by 2.5%, at an average annual cost of \$53 per year for other customers.

Together, these changes would raise about \$2.4 million per year. Measure HH would create a panel of energy, equity, and climate experts to advise the City Council on how to make equitable and effective climate action investments. The measure also gives the Council the authority to later charge different tax rates on electricity and gas to promote clean energy.

Please join the League of Women Voters, the Ecology Center, Green the Church, our local 350 chapter, and Sunrise Movement Bay Area in creating a greener, cleaner and more equitable community.

VOTE YES on Measure HH.

s/Melinda Howard-Herrarte

Vice Chair, Sierra Club SF Bay Chapter, Northern Alameda County Group

s/Jinky Gardner

Action Director League of Women Voters Berkeley Emeryville Albany

s/David Hochschild

Chair, California Energy Commission (for identification purposes only), Resident of District 6

s/Martin Bourque

Executive Director, Ecology Center

s/Dr. Ashley E. McClure

Primary Care Physician; Medical Community Climate Organizer; Co-founder of Climate Health Now; Mom