



Office of the City Manager

April 3, 2019

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From:  Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager

Subject: Berkeley awarded technical assistance to advance building electrification

In recognition of its national leadership in building electrification, the City of Berkeley has been awarded free technical assistance through the [Building Electrification Initiative \(BEI\)](#). The project supports the transitioning of the energy sources in Berkeley buildings away from natural gas to clean electricity, to make further progress toward achieving Berkeley's Climate Action Plan and fossil fuel free goals.

BEI will provide free consulting services valued at \$35,000 to conduct a high-level analysis of Berkeley's existing building stock and regional resources, and to identify opportunities and barriers of various building types, owners and residents. The work will include an equity analysis looking at how to best serve low income residents and communities of color. To help achieve both its climate and equity goals, the project will assess local building stock for overlapping opportunities to convert heating and hot water systems away from fossil fuels while also providing needed investments to improve the health, quality, resilience, and affordability for residents. The work will be performed by Cadmus Consulting and Kapwa Consulting.

BEI selected Berkeley in recognition of the City's leading edge work on greenhouse gas reduction efforts, particularly the commitment to reducing fossil fuel consumption in the building sector, as demonstrated by innovative policies such as the Building Energy Saving Ordinance (BESO). This project supports Climate Action Plan efforts, and will advance the electrification goals included in recent City Council referrals, such as the Deep Green Building Initiative, the Fossil Fuel Free and Climate Emergency referrals, and current considerations of a policy to prohibit natural gas infrastructure in new construction. The BEI project will also inform the upcoming Pathways to Clean Energy Report, which will explore strategies to equitably transition the existing building stock in Berkeley from natural gas to 100% clean electricity.

For more information, please contact Billi Romain, Manager of the Office of Energy & Sustainable Development, at (510) 981-7432.

cc: Paul Buddenhagen, Deputy City Manager
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