



Office of the City Manager

April 15, 2021

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: *Dee* Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager

Re: Public input on Draft Berkeley Existing Buildings Electrification (BEBE)

The City is seeking public input on its just-released Draft Berkeley Existing Buildings Electrification (BEBE) Strategy. This plan will help equitably transition all buildings in Berkeley away from natural gas appliances to efficient, all-electric alternatives. The Planning Department's Office of Energy and Sustainable Development (OESD) is seeking public input on the BEBE Strategy through an online survey and at a May 4, 2021, community meeting.

Through May 15, community members can provide comments [online](#) or share thoughts via email at electric@cityofberkeley.info. And on May 4, in conjunction with the Ecology Center and the Berkeley Climate Action Coalition, OESD will host a [Zoom community meeting](#). Participants will learn about the benefits of building electrification and the City's efforts to transition the community off natural gas, and can give feedback on the BEBE Strategy through interactive discussion groups. The meeting will also provide the opportunity to talk with local residents who are in the process of electrifying their homes.

While the 2019 Natural Gas Prohibition requires all-electric new construction, the BEBE Strategy focuses on existing buildings, and identifies policy levers and equity guardrails to ensure that all community members can benefit from the City's efforts to electrify and upgrade buildings. All-electric buildings are more safe, healthy, comfortable and resilient, and have lower greenhouse gas emissions. The BEBE Strategy supports the City's Climate Action Plan, Resilience Strategy, Strategic Plan, and Fossil Fuel-Free goals.

Please share information about the release of the Draft BEBE Strategy and May 4 meeting with community members. The attached flyer provides an event description to facilitate information sharing with your constituents.

Attachment

cc: Paul Buddenhagen, Deputy City Manager
David White, Deputy City Manager
Jenny Wong, City Auditor
Mark Numainville, City Clerk
Matthai Chakko, Assistant to the City Manager
Jordan Klein, Interim Director, Planning and Development Department

Attachment 1: Berkeley Building Electrification Outreach Content (Word document)



Getting off Gas in Berkeley's Buildings
Shape the Vision of Berkeley's All-Electric Future

Community Meeting
Tuesday May 4 at 7pm on Zoom
Register at electrifyberkeley.eventbrite.com

Switching from polluting natural gas to clean electricity in our homes, offices, schools, businesses, and places of worship makes our community safer, healthier, and more resilient while reducing our carbon footprint.

With Berkeley's Natural Gas Ban, the first in the nation, newly-constructed buildings must be built all-electric. But to become a fossil fuel-free city we also need to figure out how to eliminate natural gas in our existing buildings. The City has released a new [Draft Existing Building Electrification Strategy](#) on how to equitably electrify existing buildings so everyone can benefit.

Join our community meeting to:

- Discover the many benefits of building electrification
- Give feedback on the City's proposed Existing Building Electrification Strategy
- Talk with local residents who are making the switch to highly efficient all-electric appliances

Whether or not you can join our community meeting, your input is important. Please read and provide comments by May 15 on the [Draft Berkeley Existing Buildings Electrification Strategy](#) or email electric@cityofberkeley.info. Thank you!

