



BUILD

Building Initiative for Low-Emissions Development Program

Electrification FAQ



The Building Initiative for Low-Emissions Development (BUILD) Program is a residential building decarbonization program providing incentives and technical assistance to support the adoption of advanced building design and all-electric technologies in new, low-income all-electric homes and multifamily buildings.

First time building all-electric?

The BUILD New Adopter Design Award provides eligible applicants constructing their first all-electric, low-income multifamily building (10+ units) with **up to \$100,000 design award** to defray direct design costs.

FOR QUESTIONS, EMAIL BUILD AT:

BUILD@energy.ca.gov

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT:

[BUILD Program Webpage](#)

www.energy.ca.gov/programs-and-topics/programs/building-initiative-low-emissions-development-program

1. What is building electrification?

Building electrification is the act of installing electric heating and cooking equipment, such as induction cooktops, heat pump water heaters, and heat pump space conditioning systems.

2. Why is building electrification so important?

Climate: Building electrification significantly reduces carbon dioxide emissions and represents a necessary strategy to help California meet its decarbonization goals. California Senate Bill 100 requires 60% of California's electricity must be generated from renewable resources by 2030 and requires 100% carbon-free electricity by 2045.

Cost Savings: While the current cost of electricity is higher than the cost of gas per unit of energy, modern electric technology (e.g., induction cooktops and heat pumps) is much more efficient and could lower overall utility bills. In new construction projects, there are cost savings tied to avoided gas infrastructure installation.

Health: Natural gas delivery systems can leak carbon monoxide and nitrogen oxides, which leads to poor indoor air quality. Reducing emissions and building flues improves the health and well-being of Californians.

3. Why do residents want an all-electric home?

Efficiency and Cost Savings: Electric appliances are three to five times as efficient as gas models. High-efficiency electric appliances may save customers money every month.

Health and Safety: The indoor air quality and safety of homes will improve when natural gas combustion appliances, such as gas stoves, forced air heaters and water heaters are replaced with electric appliances.

4. Why are developers and builders making the switch to all-electric?

Prepare for Future Requirements: Builders consistently adapt to shifting market demands and evolving CA building codes. Adopting advanced building practices is the first step to reducing carbon emissions and increasing energy efficiency.

Starting in 2030, gas heating and water heating equipment will no longer be sold in California. BUILD participants have access to expert, no-cost assistance to stay ahead of state and local building electrification policies. Let BUILD experts guide you through this process with up to 300 hours of no-cost technical assistance.

Lower Construction Costs: Constructing an all-electric building is typically less expensive than a mixed-fuel building relying on gas, regardless of location, because all-electric buildings do not require new gas infrastructure. Electrification provides an opportunity to install more efficient technology, like

induction cooktops, heat pump water heating, heat pump dryers, and heat pump space heating and cooling. Visit the BUILD program website to learn how financial incentives can help offset project costs.

GHG Reduction Considerations for BUILD Participation



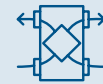
Heat Pump Space Heating and Cooling



High Performance Insulation



Energy Efficient Windows



Heat Recovery Systems



Rooftop Solar PV Panels

Building Code Requirements

Over 65 California jurisdictions have already adopted policies to promote or require building electrification, and the California Air Resources Board has approved a strategy to ban the sale of gas heating and water heating equipment statewide starting in 2030.

Get ahead of changing requirements by taking advantage of funds and resources available through BUILD today. For current information on reach code policies, [click here to access an interactive map.](#)

Increase Your BUILD Incentive with These Program Kickers



JA-13 Compliant Heat Pump Water Heaters



Smart Thermostats



Energy Storage



Induction Cooktops



Electric Vehicle (EV) Chargers, Smart EV Chargers, and Bi-Directional EV Chargers



Low Global Warming Potential (GWP) Refrigerants



Heat Pump Clothes Dryers

BUILD TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TEAM

