

**Archived:** Friday, August 13, 2021 3:15:35 PM

**From:** [Kirsten Smith](#)

**Sent:** Friday, August 13, 2021 10:44:55 AM

**To:** [Will Hall](#); [Keith Scully](#); [Susan Chang](#); [Doris McConnell](#); [Keith McGlashan](#); [Chris Roberts](#); [Betsy Robertson](#)

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Energy code update

**Sensitivity:** Normal

**Attachments:**

[AIA Seattle energy code 8.13.2021.pdf](#) 

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Mayor Hall, Deputy Mayor Scully, and City Councilmembers:

AIA Seattle represents architects across the Puget Sound region. We offer the attached letter in support of Shoreline's exploration of developing an energy code that prioritizes removing gas from new buildings. This is AIA's top priority at the state and local level, and we would be pleased to be a resource on this issue should the need arise.

Thank you,  
Kirsten Smith

**Kirsten Smith** *she/her*

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August 13, 2021

Mayor Will Hall & Shoreline City Council  
17500 Midvale Avenue N  
Shoreline, WA 98133-4905

Dear Mayor Hall, Deputy Mayor Scully, and Shoreline City Councilmembers:

AIA Seattle represents over 2,500 architects and allied professionals throughout the Puget Sound region. We applaud the City of Shoreline's consideration of policies that would phase out the use of fossil fuels in new construction in the city.

A third of Washington's carbon emissions come from buildings—the second highest source after transportation—and these emissions are growing at a faster rate than any other source of climate pollution. Replacing fossil fuel use in buildings with efficient, all-electric buildings is critical to our work to combat climate change because it reduces these emissions to zero.

Efficient, all-electric buildings also provide cleaner air and healthier places to live, work, and play. They eliminate the carbon monoxide and nitrogen oxide pollution that result from burning gas and reduce the risk of gas leaks. Studies have linked indoor air pollution from gas appliances to significant increases in childhood and elderly asthma rates and other respiratory problems. These impacts disproportionately affect people of color and communities living on lower incomes.

The technology to build efficient, all-electric buildings exists today. Architects are designing these buildings every day, and every day they are under construction across Washington to provide healthier, cleaner, schools, workplaces, and homes.

As you know, in February Seattle enacted legislation to update its energy code to eliminate all gas and most electric resistance space heating systems and to eliminate gas water heating in large multifamily buildings and hotels. Architects participated in the technical work supporting this effort and we would be pleased to provide the City of Shoreline with any resources requested as you consider this critical policy.

Thank you again for taking up this discussion. It is timely, as we consider the United Nations' [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report](#) released this week, which U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres described as a “code red for humanity.”

Respectfully,



Brendan Connolly, AIA  
President, AIA Seattle

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