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**From:** [matt remle](#)

**Sent:** Thursday, August 12, 2021 2:31:44 PM

**To:** [City Council](#); [Clk](#)

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Shoreline buildings policy

**Sensitivity:** Normal

**Attachments:**

[Shoreline buildings org template letter.docx](#) 

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Hello Councilmembers,

I am submitting the following letter in *support of a prohibition of fossil fuels in new buildings*.

Thanks,

Matt Remle

Honorable Councilmembers,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments and recommendations to Shoreline City Council. Mazaska Talks strongly supports the prohibition of fossil fuels in new buildings, and we are pleased to see this topic up for discussion by the Council.

This discussion is timely: Shoreline already faces major climate change impacts, including extreme heat, sea level rise, extreme rain events, and drought conditions during the summer, as noted by the City's Climate Action Plan. We need to take bold action to reduce Shoreline's greenhouse gas emissions (GHG), and emissions from buildings are growing at a faster rate than any of other source of carbon pollution in Washington state, largely due to the use of fossil gas (also known as natural gas) for space heating, water heating, and cooking.

Fossil gas also has major implications for the health and safety of Shoreline's residents. Buildings are the primary source of pollution-related deaths in Washington state<sup>1</sup>. Outdoor air pollution from burning fossil fuels in buildings led to an estimated 559 early deaths in Washington in 2017<sup>2</sup>, while indoor air pollution from gas cooking can increase a child's chance of experiencing asthma symptoms by 42%<sup>3</sup>. These impacts are felt disproportionately by frontline communities: Black, Latinx, and Asian people, as well as low-income communities, have higher risks of death from particle pollution<sup>4</sup>. Running gas through highly pressurized pipelines also puts residents in danger of gas leaks and fires, like the gas explosion in Seattle's Greenwood neighborhood in 2016 that leveled two buildings, impacted 36 business, created \$3 million of damage, and injured rescue workers<sup>5</sup>.

All-electric buildings can be the solution to these problems and more. Given our increasingly clean sources of electricity in Washington under 2019's Clean Energy Transformation Act, electrification will be the lowest-cost pathway to meeting our climate goals. Electric heat pump technology is highly energy-efficient and can also provide air conditioning along with heating, which will be crucial to protect our communities from heat waves. Washington also requires electric utilities to provide financial support for low-income customers; there are no such protections for gas customers.

Thank you for your consideration of this issue. We hope that this discussion will lead to passing policies that require clean, safe, all-electric buildings in Shoreline.

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<sup>1</sup> Irene C. Dedoussi, Sebastian D. Eastham, Erwan Monier, and Steven R.H. Barrett, "Premature mortality related to United States cross-air pollution", *Nature*, 578, 261-265, February 2020, <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-020-1983-8>

<sup>2</sup> Jonathan J. Buonocore, Parichehr Salmifard, Drew R. Michanowicz, and Joseph G. Allen, "A decade of the U.S. energy mix transitioning away from coal: historical reconstruction of the reductions in the public health burden of energy," *Environmental Research Letters*, Vol. 16, Issue 5, May 5, 2021, <https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1748-9326/abe74c>

<sup>3</sup> Weiwei Lin, Bert Brunekreef, and Ulrike Gehring, "Meta-analysis of the effects of indoor nitrogen dioxide and gas cooking on asthma and wheeze in children," *International Journal of Epidemiology*, Vol. 42, Issue 6, December 2013, pages 1724-1737, <https://doi.org/10.1093/ije/dyt150>

<sup>4</sup> American Lung Association, "State of the Air", 2020, <https://www.stateoftheair.org/assets/SOTA-2020.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> Evan Bush and Christine Clarridge, "Seattle explosion leaves heart of Greenwood a gigantic mess," *Seattle Times*, March 9, 2016, <https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/greenwood-explosion-destroys-buildings-injures-9-firefighters/>

Sincerely,

Matt Remle

Co-founder, Mazaska Talks