

Archived: Monday, December 6, 2021 2:30:31 PM

From: [Dylan Plummer](#)

Sent: Monday, December 6, 2021 12:28:49 PM

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

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Continued Sierra Club Support for Clean Building Policy in the City of Shoreline

Sensitivity: Normal

Attachments:

[12.6 Sierra Club City of Shoreline public comment.pdf](#) 

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Dear Mayor Will Hall and Shoreline City Council,

Find attached a second letter from the Sierra Club voicing continued support for policies to encourage equitable electrification in your city.

Thank you for all of your work on behalf of our communities, and our climate.

Best,
Dylan Plummer
Senior Campaign Representative, Building Electrification
Sierra Club



To: Mayor Will Hall & Shoreline City Council Members

CC: Shoreline City Clerk Jessica Simulcik Smith

Subject: Strong Support for Shoreline Clean Buildings Policy

Dear Mayor Hall and Shoreline City Council members,

I am writing on behalf of the Sierra Club to voice our strong support for the passage of commercial building code amendments at the upcoming December 6th meeting to mandate 100% electric construction in new commercial buildings in the City of Shoreline.

After another summer of historic wildfire, drought, and deadly heat waves, and a fall of historic rainfall and flooding, it is critical that cities in the region take the bold action required to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in line with the best available science in order to mitigate the worst impacts of climate change.

Emissions from buildings are growing at a faster rate than any other source of carbon pollution in Washington, due to the direct-use of fossil gas for heating and cooking in both residential and commercial buildings. Burning fossil fuels in the buildings sector in Washington produced [18 million metric tons \(MMT\) of carbon dioxide equivalent \(CO₂e\) in 2018](#), the equivalent to the annual emissions from 3,957,182 cars or 5 coal plants. This is 19% of the total emissions from fossil fuel combustion in the state. CO₂e emissions include emissions from burning the fuels at the end use and upstream emissions.

Burning fossil gas in buildings both contributes to the climate crisis and also greatly impacts air quality and poses significant health and safety risks across the state, disproportionately impacting children, communities of color, low-income communities, and other historically underserved demographics. Just one hour of cooking on a gas stove produces [nitrogen dioxide levels that would be illegal if found outdoors](#). A recent [study](#) showed that in Washington, burning fossil fuels in buildings was responsible for 52 premature deaths and \$577,650,107 in health impacts in 2017. 94% of those impacts were from burning gas in buildings. This is a conservative estimate as these statistics only include health impacts from outdoor PM_{2.5} and precursor pollution; it also does not include pollution from upstream extraction.

In light of the significant impacts of the direct-use of gas in buildings to public health and safety and our climate, the Sierra Club strongly supports the Shoreline City Council in its implementation of policies that support equitable building electrification in new construction and the phase out of fossil fuels in the city, with an emphasis on providing a just transition for the most vulnerable communities and workers.

Thank you for your consideration,

Dylan Plummer, Senior Campaign Representative, Sierra Club