1/13/l2022 meeting notes for the “Building Electrification” breakout room during a strategy meeting with Empower NJ. Following attendees added their email address in order to join the Building Electrification email list:

[Jefrap@optonline.net](mailto:Jefrap@optonline.net) ; [rballessio@gmail.com](mailto:rballessio@gmail.com) ggorman07419@embarqmail.com [david@montclairclimateaction.org](mailto:david@montclairclimateaction.org) [Melissa@njeja.org](mailto:Melissa@njeja.org) [somaactionclimate@gmail.com](mailto:somaactionclimate@gmail.com)

**ATTENDEES:**

**Taylor McFarland |** [**Taylor.McFarland@sierraclub.org**](mailto:Taylor.McFarland@sierraclub.org) **|** Chapter Coordinator, Sierra Club, NJ Chapter

**Greg Gorman | ggorman07419@embarqmail.com |** Conservation Chair for Sierra Club, NJ Chapter

**Steve Miller | stevemiller@comcast.net |** Sierra Club Building Electrification Issues Coordinator, co-founder of 3 groups to influence climate action (Middletown for Clean Energy, 50\*30 team, and Climate Action team for faith based actions)

Matt Dragon | - Revolution NJ/ Essex County- Interest

Jennifer Nielsen | [Somaactionclimate@gmail.com](mailto:Somaactionclimate@gmail.com)- SOMA Action Climate Committee, starting initiative to do energy audits and train, and government programs for efficiency. Sustainable Morristown- update energy buildings

David Korfhage | [david@montclairclimateaction.org](mailto:david@montclairclimateaction.org)  - Leader of Montclair Climate Action. Collaborating with SOMA Coordinating to push 100% electric provision to households. Curious what can be done at local level, building codes- does state policy intertwine

Jeff Rapaport jefrap@optonline.net

Melissa Miles | [melissa@njeja.org](mailto:melissa@njeja.org) - Environmental Justice Alliance

Melissa Marks

Eileen Curran

Renee Allessio- rballessio@gmail.com Sustainable West Milford. Uses solar and heat pumps, interested in rebates in using this system.

Jeff Rapaport- Curious to how electrification comes together at grid level, interested in learning.

**Takeaways:** Need more incentives, subsidies, government involvement, legislation, education, involving building electrification.

If people knew a little bit more in heat pumps on a climate change, indoor toxic, combustion- benefits/ cost savings and develop a market for improvements will see changes in grid and distribution center.

**Agenda for Buildings Group:**

Introductions (Name/ Organization/ Location/ Why you decided to join the Buildings Group)

Building Electrification

Residential and Commercial heating and water heating

Commercial heat processes for producing product or service; i.e., tanning salons, grocery store refrigeration, pizza ovens,

Appliance efficiency

Green Building Construction/insulation

[**S4133(Gopal)-**](https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/Bills/2020/S4500/4133_R1.HTM) Gas Lobby Gift

Takeaways/ Future Actions

**NY’s RENEWABLE HEAT NOW LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE**

[Link to legislative package HERE.](https://renewableheatnow.org/#:~:text=The%20Renewable%20Heat%20Now%202022,subsidies%20for%20new%20gas%20hookups)

The major aspects are:

* Requires new buildings to have all-electric space and water heating and appliances.
* Provide funding for grants and financing to fund all-electric and electric-ready affordable housing in and for  disadvantaged communities.
* Updating appliance efficiency standards to reduce energy use.
* Requires the Public Service Commission to develop and for utilities to implement a plan for an orderly and equitable transition from gas utilities to renewable heating, cooking, and hot water services.
* Enact a tax credit for geothermal heat pump systems and exempt the sale of geothermal heat pump systems from sales tax.

**Takeaways:** Need more incentives, subsidies, government involvement, legislation, education, involving building electrification.

If people knew a little bit more in heat pumps on a climate change, indoor toxic, combustion- benefits/ cost savings and develop a market for improvements will see changes in grid and distribution center.

How much autonomy do towns have with building codes? Randy Solomon from Sustainable NJ have no leeway.

*Ads- are heat pumps uncomfortable? - Smart Heat NJ.* Need to combat that

Electrication involves heat process/ services like pizza oven (gas fired/wood burners) that get tehcincal in using heat processes that is economical but maintains quality of service.

Heat Pumps- Ducts or No? (steve has central duct and replaced outside air conditioner only. Renee has ductless units in w/propane furnace.)

USEPA / Department of Energy are updating heat pumps.

What is program for government buildings? - Steve- there are special programs for them. They have the ability to make improvements to them. Finance costs are paid by energy use/cost. Cities are taking advantage of this across NJ.

**Action Items:**

Our group participants included Matt Dragon from Revolution NJ/ Essex County,Jennifer Nielsen SOMA Action Climate Committee, starting an initiative to do energy audits and training, and government programs for efficiency. David Korfhage, Leader of Montclair Climate Action and currently collaborating with SOMA on coordinating to push 100% electric provision to households, Melissa Miles from Environmental Justice Alliance, Melissa Marks from Surfider Foundation, Rennee Allessio from Sustainable West Milford, Eileen Curren, and Jeff Rapaport

Eileen Curran.

Our group had some questions regarding what can be done on a local level for electrification, how the state intertwines with local issues, if there are special programs for government buildings, How much autonomy do towns have with building codes,

Need more incentives, subsidies, government involvement, legislation, education, involving building electrification.

If people knew a little bit more in heat pumps on a climate change, indoor toxic, combustion- benefits/ cost savings and develop a market for improvements will see changes in grid and distribution center.

Gov. Murphy (Nov 10, 2021) exec Order #274: 50% GHG reduction by 2030, and made the comment “We must speed up across the board”

My team determined that NJ is overshooting the 50% goal: need to start building electrification NOW, instead of waiting until 2030 as suggested.

(in NJ, buildings are the 2nd greatest GHG source, after Transportation)

NY is several years ahead of NJ: long ago established the NYState Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA)- as an independent authority – its own budget.

For last 10 years, building to current over 200 environmental groups, that are focused on reducing GHG emissions- and particularly on electrifying buildings with heatpumps

They have periodic meetings; special advisors, available for consultations, on energy efficieint and heat pumps in particular. One leader, Kim Fraczek, Director of Sane Energy Project, has been a climate missionary for 10 years. A LARGE group of businesses pushing Ground Source Heatpumps.

In 2019, NYSTate legislature passed an all-encompassing “Climate Act”, which established NYSERDA as a lead. All subsequent climate legislation references the “Climate Act” (see slides (PDF FILE under.

NYSERDA has a large budget on building electrification. I saw a $3Million 2022 direct marketing budget (including direct mail, and social media). Let me describe for a geothermal heatpump customer: satellite views of prospective heat pump customers that estimates heatpump reqmts, and estimated cost, provides direct mailing to that customer, with HVAC companies who can install (the cost tool is also available to the HVAC companies (so far in westchester area; will expand across NYState).

HVAC companies are paid 50% of their training costs

NYState has ample incentives for customers to upgrade to heatpumps





