**2023-4-8 Building Electrification report**

1. **FIRST: NJ IS UNLIKELY TO MEET ITS GOALS FOR GHG reduction by 2030 and 2050. BE is the 2nd largest NJ GHG source. The NJ BPU (Board of Public Utilities) has a status quo reliance on EVERY NJ gas and utility setting their own energy efficiency programs, rebates, and incentives, with no budget increases. This ignores Gov Murphy’s EO 316, issued Feb 15, which requires an ADDITIONAL 400K residences and 20K businesses be ELECTRIFIED by 2030. (my group requested the Gov to set double this # as a goal). This goal requires an average 60K additional buildings electrified /year. The NJBPU is currently IGNORING this goal.

Recently, the BPU introduced a status quo “Straw instructions” to each NJ gas and electric utility asking each to create its own 3 year program on “Energy Efficiency”, under the Clean Energy Act of 2018. The public has only the month of APRIL to make changes to the 3 year utility program, 2024 through June, 2027. Once the “Straw” is approved, ONLY ATTORNEYS CAN HAVE FURTHER INVOLVEMENT with each utility’s confidential plans for the next 3 years.

On their own, the GAS UTILITIES set HIGH rebates to encourage residents to continue with fossil fuel. The ELECTRIC UTILITIES set relatively smaller rebates for building electrification rebates. Nearby states, like NY, have MUCH GREATER rebates, training, and advertising, using slogans like “Advancing Beneficial Electrification Through Heat Pumps”

Two of our BE team spoke April 6 in the 1st stakeholder meeting on the BPU “Straw Instructions”.
 We will actively participate in the final two stakeholder meetings planned in April.
We have several detailed concerns and are developing written comments. We may delay 2 weeks before submitting written comments until the BPU offers an entry for the CURRENTLY BLANK “Building Decarbonization” section of their “Straw Instructions” to the utilities..**
2. **TOPIC 2: We have a sub-group which sees a need for cleaning up confusion about Building Electrification credits, rebates, both fed and NJ State. SO\_ we are planning how to write “ Practical Guides for Consumers” – in order for consumers to understand and use all these benefits. We hope to submit our first of a series, this one will be “Community Solar- Practical Guide”. We propose to submit May 3 for publication in the Jersey Sierran.**
3. **TOPIC 3 Our next monthly BE webinar is 7PM, April 20 with two key speakers on our series of Techniques to significantly reduce home and business GHG emissions.**