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for 2/12/2022 SC ExComm minutes by judyminot@gmail.com Ver 2

Report by Building Electrification Issue Coordinator:

Building Electrification is a major 2022 strategy of EmpowerNJ. I have 50 interested people are on my team to help

Our team OBJECTIVES are currently circulating within EmpowerNJ leadership (Greg Gorman will provide more detail in a few minutes). Following is a 3 minute summary of our issues.

We first must make new and old buildings energy efficient with increasingly stringent building codes.

The NJ Clean Energy Program must be monitored. NJ spun off program management of existing buildings efficiency to the NJ utilities. Allowing a gas company to push their gas products is the WRONG direction.

Accelerating Building Electrification will help meet Gov Murphy’s 50% reduction goal by 2030

We will rely on heat pump technology.

Newest heat pump technology uses less electricity but remains only about par in operating cost against gas heat,. The US DOE and EPA have initiatives to increase heat pump efficiency, particularly cold climate heat pumps. The top end systems, from all manufactures use newly designed variable speed outside condenser, and variable speed air handler to eek out highest performance.

I expect incremental heat pump improvements through the next few years. Dealer and customer feedback is likely to drive more standardization (complaints by HVAC servicers will narrow the variety of refrigerants) and higher volume will drive lower manufacturing cost and lower customer price

NYState is YEARS ahead and providing us a ROLE MODEL with Building Electrification campaigns. They have a coalition of over 200 environmental organizations. They are well organized and extensively lobby for regulations and a suite of at least 5 laws for building electrification. Last month NY residents concluded a massive campaign, with the NY Governor committing to 2 million all-electric homes by 2030

We need to educate and provide strong incentives to NJ residents and make residents and businesses aware they CAN immediately switch to a heat pump, and eliminate a majority of their GHG emissions. AND, they can immediately achieve 100% GHG reduction via rooftop solar, community solar, or 3rd party renewable electric supplier,.

We need to educate and train the HVAC industry to sell heat pump technology.

 I will close with my personal story: Last month, I had an HVAC company replace ONLY my (broken) outside 9 year old A/C condenser- and reused all other system components of my forced air, central ducted system. My electricity is 100% renewable from a third party. I estimate 90% REDUCTION in GHG from my gas furnace, which is now used as backup only in REALLY COLD temperatures.

My personal slogan: never again replace an A/C. ALWAYS replace with a heat pump!!

The Building Electrification Team runs a monthly webinar on all the basics with guest speakers, plus residents and businesses describing their personal experiences with heatpumps.. Join us, 7PM every 3rd Thurs. Find the event in the Sierra Club NJ Chapter calendar

Submitted by Steve Miller, Building Electrification Issues Coordinator