RESIDENTIAL BUILDING ELECTRIFICATION PRIORITIES

# Building Electrification Team letter to Governor Murphy

Assign and fund a NJ Climate Leader, acting with the Governor’s authority, to operate within an expanded scope of the NJ “Climate Action and the Green Economy”. This individual would be empowered to hire consultants with necessary skills, and borrow the appropriate staff from each NJ department, to include BPU, DEP, Dept of Community Affairs and others as required, to create a “Climate Team”. This “Climate Team” would be funded, and possess the ability to launch initiatives that guide NJ to reach goals defined by the GWRA, the NJ Energy Master Plan, the 2020 “80x50 Report” and other applicable laws and regulations. The work would include:

1. Produce a Building Electrification Roadmap. This roadmap should include provisions for “cold climate” heat pumps, guide development of strong standards for “netzero” GHG building emissions for both new construction and retrofits, establish and meet a building GHG emission reduction of 50% by 2030, and ensure NJ meets the NJ 2019 Energy Master Plan’s least cost scenario requiring converting at least 90% of residential and commercial buildings from natural gas to electric appliances by 2050.
2. Provide significant increases in incentives and programs (including efficiency programs) for “cold climate” heat pumps, with sufficient incentives for climate justice communities. Eliminate all incentives for gas appliances. Ensure incentives are sufficient to:
* Convert all homes currently having costly electric resistance, oil, or propane heating to electric heat pumps by 2030.
* Convert at least 20% of homes currently having fossil gas heating to electric heat pumps, by 2030
1. The above activities are mostly oriented to residential one or two family buildings. To expand to commercial and larger multi-family buildings, NJ should join the U.S. “Building Performance Standard Coalition” to drive decarbonization of both NEW and EXISTING commercial and multifamily buildings. This would likely require membership funding to join the “coalition”, and staff time to engage NJ in the activities and responsiblities.

# Legislation for NJ Building Electrification

1. Examine the NYState 2019 “Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act” (“Climate Act”) to determine the applicable portions that fill voids in the current NJ path toward GHG reduction goals by 2030 and 2050
2. Lobby the NJ legislature to draft and pass the currently missing portions of the NY State 2019 “Climate Act”
3. Convert the NY Bill Sheet to an applicable NJ Bill Sheet, and determine legislative initiatives
4. Lobby the NJ legislature to draft and pass the newly identified legislative initiatives
5. Establish a working relationship with climate-friendly sponsors of NJ legislation. Examples:
* Assemblyman Kennedy’s bill to amend A1440 (Establishes "Zero Energy Construction Act"). See details of Action 3.1, included in [50x30 Building Electrification (BE) Team draft V7](https://docs.google.com/document/d/18xJg65uEwOTOICciW3K_Z7EL_vATqiwxdWhZUct4POM/edit)
* Assemblypersons John McKeon and Mila Jasey of SOMA (South Orange & Maplewood)   (and Senator Cody?) are strong environment advocates
* Senator James Beach sponsored a Zero Energy Bill last session.
* Senator Bob Smith and Nia Gill voted against S4133 “Gas Lobby Gift.”
* Senator Andrew Zwicker- was a strong climate advocate as Assemblyman.

 NOTE: The following BE members are interested in legislation: May Faulk faulk\_@hotmail.com, Greg Gorman (Champion) ggorman07419@embarqmail.com, David Korfhage drkorfhage@gmail.com

NOTES: TWO AREAS NEEDING HELP FROM KEN DOLSKY:

1. BE Plan Tactic 1: We need help to “Disseminate the Building Electrification plan to all Empower NJ organizations”,
2. Experienced leaders are needed from EmpowerNJ to build the above section “Legislation for NJ Building Electrification”.

We will need help to begin to interact with legislators (and their staffs), and to train members of our BE team to join lobbying teams.