

DOCKETED

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CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

715 P Street
Sacramento, California 95814

energy.ca.gov

CEC-057 (Revised 1/21)



Notice of Proposed Adoption Building Initiative for Low-Emissions Program (BUILD) Draft Guidelines, Second Edition Revised Docket 20-DECARB-01

Introduction

The Building Initiative for Low-Emissions Development (BUILD) Program Draft Guidelines, Second Edition Revised (Draft Second Edition Revised Guidelines) were posted on October 29, 2025, and are available for review. The Draft Second Edition Revised Guidelines provide the rules for program participation, including the eligibility requirements, the application process, and the incentive structure, as well as substantive and non-substantive edits summarized below.

The proposed Draft Second Edition Revised Guidelines will be considered for adoption at the California Energy Commission (CEC) Business Meeting on:

December 8, 2025
10:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
In-person and Remote Access

To view the business meeting agenda and for details on how to access the meeting and participate by Zoom, please go to the CEC's Business Meeting [webpage](https://www.energy.ca.gov/event/meeting/2025-12/energy-commission-business-meeting) at <https://www.energy.ca.gov/event/meeting/2025-12/energy-commission-business-meeting>

The Draft Second Edition Revised Guidelines are available in both a "clean" version, showing language as if adopted, and in an underline/strikethrough version. Both versions are available for review on the [BUILD program page](https://www.energy.ca.gov/programs-andtopics/programs/building-initiative-low-emissions-development-program), at <https://www.energy.ca.gov/programs-andtopics/programs/building-initiative-low-emissions-development-program>, or the 20-DECARB-01 docket, at <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=20-DECARB-01>.

Background

Senate Bill 1477 (Stern, Chapter 378, Statutes of 2018) authorized two residential building decarbonization programs to encourage the development and deployment of near-zero-emission building technologies: the BUILD Program and the Technology and Equipment for Clean Heating (TECH) Initiative. BUILD provides technical assistance and incentives to support the adoption of advanced building design and construction for new all-electric, low-

income residential buildings. The BUILD Program is overseen by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and administered by the CEC.

Proposed Second Edition Revised Guidelines

The Draft Second Edition Revised Guidelines contains substantive and non-substantive changes to the BUILD Program Guidelines, Second Edition (Existing Guidelines). Specific changes include the following:

- Notate in a footnote the upcoming changes of the lower-global warming potential (GWP) refrigerant (GWP<750) HVAC kicker. (Appendix B, Section C, Table B.3, Footnote 37, pg. B-4)
- Revise the minimum requirements for the air-source split central heat pump and variable-refrigerant-flow (VRF) core technology requirements. (Appendix B, Section B, Tables B.1 and B.2, pgs. B-2 & B-3)
- Add a catch-all footnote statement for HVAC equipment not specifically mentioned in BUILD's core technology categories. The statement would appear as footnote eight below the Space Conditioning portions of Tables B.1 and B.2:
 - “^(B8)Heat pump HVAC products that do not fit into one of the core technology categories may still qualify as eligible technologies if the equipment is listed in the [AHRI Directory of Certified Product Performance](#) and meets applicable efficiency standards.” (Appendix B, Section B, Tables B.1 and B.2, pgs. B-2 & B-4)
- Insert a footnote in the eligible applicant experience requirements allowing contractual developer experience to apply only for supportive/transitional housing applicants. (Chapter 2, Section A(1)(a), pg. 5)

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Media Inquiries. Email mediaoffice@energy.ca.gov or call (916) 654-4989.

Technical Subject Inquiries. Email Larry Froess at BUILDUnit@energy.ca.gov or call (916) 931-9761.

General Inquiries: Email Sean Lockwood at BUILDUnit@energy.ca.gov or call (279) 226-1056.

Availability of Documents: Documents for this meeting will be available at the BUILD Program webpage's "Notices and Documents" section at <https://www.energy.ca.gov/programs-and-topics/programs/building-initiative-low-emissions-development-program-build>, or at the BUILD Program Docket <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=20-DECARB-01>.

When new information is posted, an email will be sent to those subscribed to the BUILD subscription topic. To receive these notices or notices of other email subscription topics, visit [Subscriptions](#), at <https://www.energy.ca.gov/subscriptions>.

Dated: November 20, 2025, at Sacramento, California.

Jennifer Nelson

Deputy Director, Reliability, Renewable Energy and Decarbonization Incentives Division

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