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Building Efficiency

The importance of rapidly reducing greenhouse gas emissions from buildings is now very clear. Adopting standards that place high priorities on solar heating and power, thermal and battery storage of heat and power, and an efficient building envelope, will serve people best in the long-run. Buildings with Thermal storage are more efficient because they can shift demand to times when power is less expensive. Buildings with batteries to store electric power can run appliances at low cost, and can even reduce power costs by selling excess power to the grid when it is most in demand.

The role of buildings in improving energy reliability, and balancing supply and demand, is significant, especially when a large fraction of energy is from variable wind and solar power, and there is an effort to reduce reliance on natural gas to provide these services,

Please do not discount the full social costs and risks extending gas infrastructure nor the greenhouse gas impacts of methane leakage, in establishing standards. Also, consider the air quality, health, reliability, and stranded asset risks of gas appliances. Cities and counties should be encouraged to cease expansion of gas service.