DOCKETED	
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Document Title:	Support for Decarbonization Policies, Practices and Programs
Description:	Letter from over 50 businesses and higher education institutions in support of building decarbonization policies, practices and programs. Docketed by staff.
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December 1, 2020

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of California
State Capital, First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

California Energy Commission
1516 9th St
Sacramento, CA 9581

Dear Governor Newsom, California Energy Commission Commissioners and Staff:

As businesses, higher education institutions, healthcare systems, and associations across the West, we write to urge our state leaders to pursue ambitious building decarbonization policies. Optimizing energy use in the building sector will save businesses, institutions, and residents money while reducing emissions, spurring innovation in building design and construction, improving public health, and helping drive economic recovery.

Climate change poses a significant risk to our long-term economic success, impacts the health and livelihood of the communities in which we operate and live, and disrupts the value chains on which we rely. We are already feeling the effects of climate change across the West — from increased heat waves and extreme wildfires, to drought and hazardous air quality.

Because of these risks, we are making significant commitments and investments to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions.[1] The energy use at our facilities is a significant cost and increasing our energy efficiency is a major focus of our sustainability efforts. Clean energy investments are an economic opportunity, saving major energy buyers in the U.S. billions of dollars a year while reducing emissions.[2] Including robust building decarbonization policies and programs in our tool box will help us meet our goals faster and more cost-effectively, all while reducing climate-related risk.

Building decarbonization policies and practices include energy efficiency programs; building energy benchmarking programs; sustainable building design approaches; performance standards for new and existing buildings; strategic electrification; building energy and water codes; strategic energy management; building-level distributed generation and storage; and demand-side management (DSM) programs. Building decarbonization practices can provide energy users valuable insights into how much energy a building uses, helping us better manage performance, identify opportunities to cut energy costs, and make informed capital investment decisions. All consumers, businesses, and institutions benefit when we eliminate energy waste.

At the microgrid, community and grid scale level, building decarbonization investments also support resiliency. As climate change exacerbates extreme weather events, building decarbonization policies–such as those supporting distributed energy resources and demand response — enable strategic grid management and enhance grid resiliency, ensuring all customers have access to reliable power.

Decarbonizing the building sector will also generate economic, public health, and equity benefits. Investing in more efficient buildings will help the West build a more robust and resilient economy as we grapple with the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, creating local jobs that pay well and are not easily outsourced.[3] Inefficient buildings and appliances disproportionately impact the health and financial stability of marginalized and low-income communities — the same communities most affected by the pandemic. Investments in these communities

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[1] Nearly early half of all Fortune 500 companies have set goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, procure renewable energy, and invest in energy efficiency, see: https://www.ceres.org/resources/reports/power-forward-3; Health systems in the U.S. have committed to increasing climate resilience and reducing greenhouse gas emissions, see: https://noharm-uscanada.org/healthcareclimatechallenge; and Colleges and universities are making bold commitments to address climate change and resilience, integrating these into their curriculum, research, and campus operations, see: https://secondnature.org/signatory-handbook/climate-leadership-network-map/.

[2] In 2017, major energy buyers in the US saved nearly $3.7 billion a year from investments in clean energy, see: https://www.ceres.org/resources/reports/power-forward-3.

[3] E2. "Clean Energy & COVID-19 Crisis | June 2020 Unemployment Analysis." July 10, 2020. https://e2.org/reports/clean-jobs-covid-economic-crisis-june-2020/.

can reduce exposure to hazardous indoor and outdoor air pollutants and improve energy affordability, improving public health and raising disposable incomes.[4]

We strongly support the establishment of robust building decarbonization policies. As the West recovers from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, these policies will help ensure the long-term health of the region's economy and citizens.

Sincerely,

Adobe*
AIA California
Ameresco*
AR Green Consulting
Autodesk*
BAR Architects
Ben & Jerry's*
Biotic Brands
Bolt Design Studio
Boulder Organic Foods
Burton*
California Health Care Climate Alliance**
Change Finance
Cree Lighting*
DSM*
Dignity Health*
Eaton Corporation*
eBay*
Energy Efficiency First California
France Sustainable Solutions
Geostrategies, LLC
Green EconoME
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Legacy Vacation Resorts
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National Association of Energy Service Companies (NAESCO)
Nature's Path*
New Belgium Brewing*
Numi Tea
O'Brien 360
PayPal*
Proctor Engineering Group
Repurpose, Inc.
Schneider Electric*
SERA Architects
Seventh Generation*
Siemens*
Sierra Nevada Brewing*
Switch Automation
The California Efficiency + Demand Management Council
Turner Real Estate
Unilever*
Uplight*
USGBC-LA
VF Corporation*
Washington Health Care Climate Alliance**
ZGF Architects*

Higher Education Institutions
California State University Northridge
California State University Sacramento
University of California, Davis
University of California, Merced
University of California, Riverside

** Denotes over $100 Million in annual revenue*
*** Members of the California Health Care Climate Alliance and Washington Health Care Climate Alliance include over 162 hospitals in California and Washington*

CC: Kate Gordon, Director of the Governor's Office of Planning and Research
Mary Nichols, Chair of California Air Resources Board
Jared Blumenfeld, California Secretary for Environmental Protection
Wade Crowfoot, California Secretary for Natural Resources

For more information or to connect with the signatories, please contact duff@ceres.org.

[4] Rocky Mountain Institute. "Gas Stoves: Health and Air Quality Impacts and Solutions." 2020. https://rmi.org/insight/gas-stoves-pollution-health; ACEEE. "How High Are Household Energy Burdens? An Assessment of National and Metropolitan Energy Burdens across the U.S."" September 10, 2020 https://www.aceee.org/research-report/u2006.


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AIA
California


AMERESCO

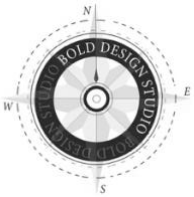

GREEN CONSULTING


AUTODESK


BAR architects


BEN & JERRY'S


BIOTIC
KVASS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CLIMATE ALLIANCE


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Sustainable
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A Leader in Solar+BESS Project Development


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seventh
generation

SIEMENS

SIERRA NEVADA

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AUTOMATION

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Efficiency
+ Demand
Management
COUNCIL

TURNER
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