

DOCKETED

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CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

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CEC-057 (Revised 1/21)



Notice of Availability and Opportunity to Comment on the 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) are now available for review. The Draft Second Edition Revised Guidelines will provide the rules for program participation, including eligibility requirements, participation process, and incentive structure.

The Draft Second Edition Revised Guidelines are available on the [BUILD Program webpage](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> and through the BUILD docket page 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)

The Draft Second Edition Revised Guidelines are available in both a “clean” version, showing language as if adopted, and in underline/strikethrough version. Both versions are available for review on the [BUILD program page](#), 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>.

Public Comment

The CEC encourages the use of its electronic commenting system. Visit the e-commenting page for this docket, 20-DECARB-01 at <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Ecomment/Ecomment.aspx?docketnumber=20-DECARB-01>. Enter your contact information and a subject title that describes your comment. Comments may be included in the “Comment Text” box or attached as a downloadable, searchable document in Microsoft® Word or Adobe® Acrobat®. The maximum file size allowed is 10 MB.

Written Comments may be submitted to the Docket Unit by **5:00 p.m. on Monday, November 17, 2025**. Written and oral comments, attachments, and associated contact information (including address, phone number, and email address) will become part of the public record of this proceeding with access available via any internet search engine. Written comments may also be submitted by email. Include docket number 20-DECARB-01 and “BUILD Program” in the subject line and email to docket@energy.ca.gov. A paper copy may be mailed to:

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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 and presentations 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: October 29, 2025, at Sacramento, California.

Jennifer Nelson

Deputy Director, Reliability, Renewable Energy and Decarbonization Incentives Division

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