

**DOCKETED**

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| <b>Docket Number:</b>   | 21-IEPR-06   |
| <b>Project Title:</b>   | Building Decarbonization and Energy Efficiency   |
| <b>TN #:</b>            | 237996   |
| <b>Document Title:</b>  | Presentation - Building Decarbonization & the CPUC   |
| <b>Description:</b>     | ***SUPERSEDES TN 237963*** S2. 2C Rory Cox and Abhilasha Wadhwa, California Public Utilities Commission, Energy Division |
| <b>Filer:</b>           | Raquel Kravitz   |
| <b>Organization:</b>    | California Public Utilities Commission   |
| <b>Submitter Role:</b>  | Public Agency  |
| <b>Submission Date:</b> | 5/26/2021 2:53:18 PM   |
| <b>Docketed Date:</b>   | 5/26/2021  |

# Building Decarbonization & the CPUC

Integrated Energy Resource Plan Workshop

Energy Division – Abhilasha Wadhwa

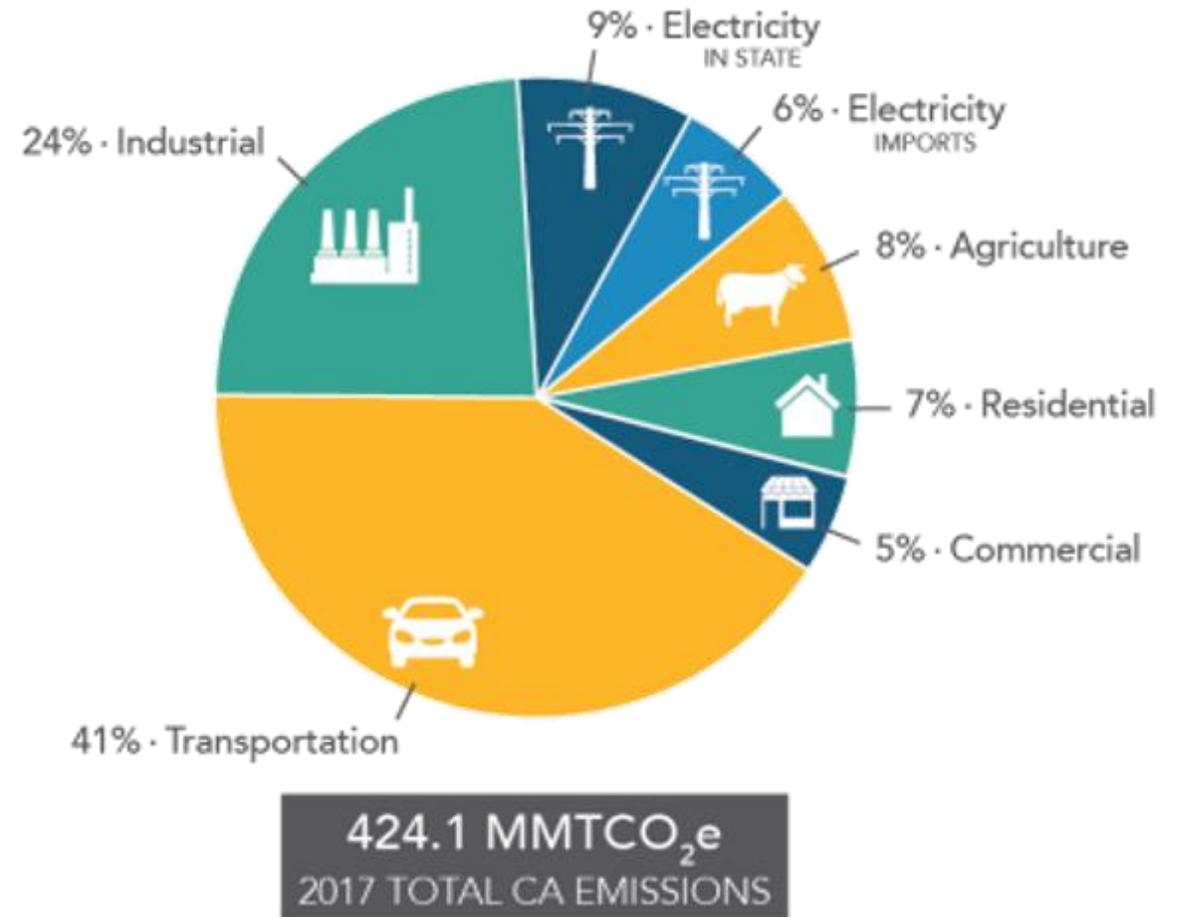
May 25, 2021



California Public  
Utilities Commission

## Buildings account for 12% of California's GHG emissions

- 85% of building emissions come from space and water heating
- Heat pumps are critical to decarbonize residential space and water heating, but have <5% market share in California



# Building Decarbonization – Cost Challenges and Barriers

- Rates: Due in large part to recent wildfires and the need to mitigate wildfire risks, electric rates are rising faster than natural gas rates
- Retrofits: Converting natural gas appliances to electric heat pumps can be expensive, especially if a panel upgrade is necessary



# Implementing SB 1477 (Stern, 2018)

- In March 2020, the CPUC adopted D.20-03-027 allocating \$200 million in funding approved pursuant to SB 1477.
- **BUILD – Building Initiative for Low Emissions Development Program**
  - \$78 million
  - Focus on new construction, mostly low-income
  - CEC is administrator
- **TECH – Technology and Equipment for Clean Heating Initiative**
  - \$117 million
  - Focus on market development, upstream and midstream activities
  - Energy Solution is implementer
- **Program Evaluation for both BUILD Program and TECH Initiative**
  - \$5 million
  - Opinion Dynamics is evaluator

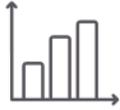


# Phase 2 – Incentive Layering, Wildfires, and Baselines

Ruling with Staff Proposal issued August 2020:

- **Incentive Layering** – With EE, SGIP, building decarbonization, and low-income programs all incentivizing heat pumps, how should we distribute incentives, address attribution, and avoid market confusion?
- **Wildfire and Natural Disaster Resiliency Rebuild (WNDRR)** – Would incentivize rebuilding homes to all-electric and beyond Title 24 code. Proposed to be funded using gas IOU cap-and-trade proceeds.
- **Electric Water Heating Baseline** – Directs IOUs to introduce a special baseline rate for customers who install heat pump water heaters in order to avoid incremental bill increases.
- Proposed Decision anticipated to be issued in **2021**.

# TECH Initiative Activities



## Spur the clean heating market through statewide strategies

### Motivate the supply chain

- Contractor incentives that make heat pumps profitable
- Incentive clearinghouse for contractors to make participation simple and straightforward
- Technical and sales training to help incorporate heat pumps into business model

### Drive consumer demand

- Statewide marketing campaign to increase consumer awareness and proactive replacement
- Consumer-facing website with contractor and incentive lookups
- Statewide low-interest financing offering leveraging REEL<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> REEL = Residential Energy Efficiency Loan Program



## Create scalable models through regional pilots

### Improve targeting and project finance

- Improve targeting and encourage 3<sup>rd</sup> party business models
- Tariffed-on bill pilot with partner utility

### Expand benefits to HTR customers

- Support low-income programs
- Multi-family pilots targeting property owners

### Streamline installation

- Streamline permitting and installation costs
- Enable load-shifting

### Encourage deployment innovation through quick start grants



## Inform long-term building decarbonization framework

### Develop public reporting site

- Graphics depicting price trends, deployment progress, meter-based impacts
- Downloadable, anonymized program datasets to support public research

### Quantify decarbonization benefits

- Analysis of meter-based impacts to quantify:
  - Avoided costs (GHGs, NOx, load-shifting, etc.)
  - Impacts of increased electrical load
  - Customer bill impacts

### Empower data-driven decisions

- Inform policy/rate proceedings (EE, IEPR, IRP, C&S, low-income, etc.)

# Building Decarb Beyond R.19-01-011 (1 of 3)

~\$335 million in additional funding to support building electrification

- **Self-Generation Incentive Program (SGIP)**

- 2020: \$44.6 million in funding for utilizing heat pump water heater (HPWH) technologies as thermal energy storage (*i.e.*, load shifting)
- Current status: [SGIP HPWH staff proposal](#) released April 16, 2021. Opening Comments due June 3, 2021.

- **PG&E's Watter Saver Program & SCE's Smart Heat Pump Water Heater Pilot Program:**

- Proposed program would install smart controls and communications on existing heat pump water heaters and electric resistance water heaters to enable load shifting.
- Would also provide incentives to replace propane water heaters with load shifting heat pump water heaters.
- PG&E program faces legal challenge (see Resolution E-5073)
- SCE program awaiting CPUC action

# Building Decarb Beyond R.19-01-011 (2 of 3)

~\$335 million in additional funding to support building electrification

- **San Joaquin Valley (SJV) Pilots**

- SJV Pilots approved in December 2018 with \$56 million in funding
- 1,676 homes are eligible for the pilot
- Installations currently forecast to be completed in Q3 2022
- As of the end of April, there have been 614 applications submitted, and a total of 86 homes have been retrofitted (65 natural gas line extension/21 electrified homes).

- **Mobilehome Park (MHP) Electrification Standard**

- Phase 2 will review electrical service size to support future electrification of existing and new manufactured homes.
- Will determine if it is appropriate to adopt this service size as a standard for all future MHP utility conversions.

# Building Decarb Beyond R.19-01-011 (3 of 3)

## Fuel Substitution within Energy Efficiency Portfolio

- D.19-08-009 modified the energy efficiency “three-prong test” and creates a new “fuel substitution” test that requires the measure:
  - Not increase source energy
  - Not harm the environment measured in CO<sub>2</sub>
- Oct 2019 Fuel Substitution Technical Guidance Document issued
- Oct 2019 Fuel Substitution Calculator released
- Aug 2020 Workpapers for Natural Gas-to-HPWH substitution approved

# High Opportunity Areas/ “Low Hanging Fruit”

- **New Construction**
  - Align new gas infrastructure investments with climate goals and rate equity principles
- **Update Electric Resistance Equipment**
  - Up to 30% of multifamily units; ~ 5% single family homes
  - Immediate bill savings
- **Electrify Homes with Solar**
  - About 7% of CA homes
  - Most with upgraded electrical panels
- **Homes with High AC Loads**
  - Inland, central valley, hot climate homes
- **Rural Areas**
  - Areas not currently served by a natural gas utility that rely on propane and wood burning

# Future of Gas

- **Integrate Renewable Gas & Hydrogen Into the System**

- R.13-02-008 Biomethane Pipeline Injection Standards, Biomethane Procurement, and Hydrogen Blending
- R.17-06-015 – Dairy Biomethane Pilots
- A.19-02-015 – Sempra Voluntary RNG Tariff
- A.20-11-004 – Joint IOU Hydrogen Testing

- **Long-term Gas Planning**

- Track 1A: System Reliability Standards
- Track 1B: Market Structure and Regulations
- Track 2: Long-term policy and planning



# California Public Utilities Commission

## Discussion/ Q&As

