
From: Cheryl Arney <cherylarney@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 7, 2025 5:51 PM
To: CouncilMail; Walsh, Elizabeth; Cheryl Arney
Subject: CB24-2025, Adopting Howard County Building Code

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Council Chair Walsh and all Members of the Howard County Council,

I reside in Council District 1 and am a constituent of Council Member Walsh.

I understand that CB24-2025, "Adopting - Howard County Building Code", will be introduced tonight to update the County's Building Code for the next three years. I also understand that it does NOT contain language to require new buildings in Howard County, and major renovations, to be all electric.

I urge the Council to add amendments to the bill that will include the key "Resources RRA and CRA language " as soon as possible to require new buildings in Howard County, and major renovations, to be all electric. If the Council can do it tonight, I ask the Council to do it tonight. If it cannot be done until the hearing on April 21, then I urge the Council to do it on April 21.

I supported CB5 in 2023 to require a report on this action. CB5 passed and the report has been generated. Now is the time to act. I'm disappointed that CB24-2025 does not currently have the requirement for new buildings to be electric. But that can be changed by amendment. The language to do this is available.

We will never phase out fossil fuels in new buildings if we don't begin some time. That opportunity is now; that time is now. These amendments do not require anyone to modify their current home or building unless they are making a major renovation. If you have gas and love it, you can keep it. But we need to chart a different course forward if we're serious about reducing greenhouse gas emissions from our building sector in Howard County. And I believe we should be serious about doing that.

When we bought our house in 1980, there were no gas lines in our new neighborhood, Dorsey Hall. It did not keep us from buying this house, that we still own, that was heated and cooled by a heat pump. We were happy with it. When gas lines came to our neighborhood in the 90's, we were persuaded to switch to gas for heating, unaware of the consequences for our climate. In November of last year, 2024, we rectified that mistake and installed a new state-of-the-art heat pump. We also got rebates from the state and a tax credit from the federal government to make it more affordable.

We are once again happy with our new electric heat pump for heating and cooling as well as our new electric heat pump hot water heater that we installed in 2023. Requiring new homes to be all electric is not a sacrifice! When existing homes are sold, this proposed law does not require all electric conversion. It only applies to new homes.

I feel very comfortable requiring this incremental step toward reducing greenhouse gas emissions in Howard County. Please do it by amending CB24-2025 at the earliest opportunity to require new buildings (with certain exceptions) to be all electric.

Very Respectfully,
Cheryl Arney
4361 Wild Filly Ct.
Ellicott City MD 21042
cherylarney@gmail.com
443-756-6419

From: Cheryl Arney <cherylarney@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 18, 2025 9:58 PM
To: CouncilMail; Cheryl Arney
Subject: Testimony on CB24-2025

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

I would like to submit the following testimony on CB24-2025, "Adopting -- Howard County Building Code".

I am Cheryl Arney. I live at 4361 Wild Filly Court, Ellicott City MD 21042, in the Dorsey Hall neighborhood of Columbia.

I am testifying in favor of amending CB24-2025 to include healthy building standards that encourage the adoption of efficient electric equipment for all new buildings and major renovations.

Here is my story that has led me to advocate for amending CB24 in this way.

My husband and I bought our current home in 1980 in the new Columbia neighborhood of Dorsey Hall. Our home was all electric -- there were no gas lines in the neighborhood at the time. The reasons we bought this home were the features of the home itself, its price, the schools our children would attend, the presence of neighborhood walking paths in Columbia, and the nature of the lot that would provide both native woods and former farmland where we could plant a vegetable garden. I don't recall us giving any consideration to the home being all electric.

For 15 years we were happy with our electric heat pump for heating and air conditioning and our electric hot water heater. But when gas lines came to our neighborhood, we were persuaded to switch to gas for these services. The arguments in favor were that the house would somehow "feel warmer" and gas would be cheaper than electricity.

But as time passed I began to learn of the climate warming effects of using fossil fuels for power. Reading Al Gore's book "Earth In The Balance" was a game-changer for me. At the same time our son was educating us on the consequences of increasing the amount of carbon dioxide in our atmosphere. He had sewn "350" on the back of his winter coat. I asked him what that meant. He said it stood for 350 parts per million of CO2 in our atmosphere, a threshold our planet would pass at its peril. As I learned more, I became more concerned about the effects of warming our climate.

And I felt much more uncomfortable contributing to the problem by burning gas for space and water heating in our home. At the same time, Congress passed the Inflation Reduction Act to make converting to electric space and water heating more affordable. So in 2023 we replaced our gas hot water heater with an electric heat pump hot water heater, receiving a rebate from Maryland's Empower program and a tax credit from the federal government. Last year we replaced our gas furnace and electric air conditioner with a modern, high-efficiency electric heat pump, again getting an Empower rebate and federal tax credit. We are totally satisfied with these new electric appliances!

I then called our utility, BGE, and had them remove the gas connection to our house, saving the very significant gas delivery fee on our utility bill. Our home is no longer in any danger from a catastrophic gas explosion or from the negative health effects of any methane leakage. My peace of mind increased.

When potential new home owners weigh the costs and benefits of gas vs. electric for providing heat in their new home in Howard County, I think these factors may be important for them, too. The price of gas/methane is predicted to rise significantly in the coming years compared to the price of electricity. Gas delivery costs have already increased 2.5 times since 2011.

So that's my story. It has left me feeling personally satisfied that the amendment I'm advocating will not create an undue onus for people seeking to buy a new residence or commercial building in Howard County. I've had both gas and electric space and water heating equipment and find them equally satisfactory in performing their respective services. But if someone wishes to buy a new building in Howard County that provides heat supplied by gas, and there are insufficient choices available, they have the option of buying a previously owned building that uses gas for heat for space and hot water. If they are unsatisfied with that option, they may have to buy in another county. But it probably won't be in Montgomery County or the District of Columbia, because those jurisdictions are on the same path as Howard County in either encouraging more new buildings to be electric or already having required it.

It is my opinion that most new home/building buyers are more heavily influenced in their decision-making by the type of structure, its price, its location, and its school district (if it's residential), just as we were when we bought our home in 1980. I do not think many buyers will decide to buy in another county simply because they cannot easily buy a new gas powered building in Howard County.

But my primary reason for advocating healthy building standards that will encourage the adoption of efficient electric equipment for new residential and commercial buildings and major renovations **is the negative effect of burning gas/methane (or any other fossil fuel) on our climate.** Burning fossil fuels creates greenhouse gases that enter our atmosphere and cause our climate to warm. I am grateful to live in Howard County, which has recognized these negative effects and set a goal to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions by 60% by 2030 from a 2009 baseline and to be carbon neutral by 2045. However, our county is not on track to meet these goals as of the latest status report.

Buildings are the second largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in our county. Encouraging more new buildings to be electric is a common sense step to make additional reductions to our greenhouse gas emissions and help us meet our 2030 goal. I emphasize the changes I'm advocating apply only to new buildings or major renovations; no-one whose home currently uses gas or other fossil fuel for space heating or hot water heating will be compelled to replace that equipment. Business as usual, without incentives for more new buildings to be electric, will lock in new emissions from gas heating equipment from new buildings for potentially decades. This is contrary to our legislatively passed climate goals.

The more I learn about the effects of warming on our planet the more concerned I am. At some point the warming will cause tipping points which will accelerate the warming and which we humans will be unable to reverse. An example is the melting of the permafrost.

The Washington Post ran an article by Sarah Kaplan yesterday, April 17, "Ecosystems losing ability to absorb CO2, scientists fear". (<https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/2025/04/16/what-record-spike-planet-warming-gases-says-about-health-earth/>) The

article said, "... extreme drought and raging wildfires unleashed huge amounts of carbon from forests last year, effectively canceling out any pollution they might have absorbed."

We're losing our allies in the fight against climate change because of the effects of climate change. This is frightening. Many of you have children and grand-children; I have a 23-year-old grand-daughter named Antonia. I shudder to think what her world will be like when she's my age, 79, if we don't stop the warming.

So yes, my primary reason for advocating for more new buildings in Howard County to be electric is to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions.

From: g richard <gmalegus@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 19, 2025 7:28 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: I SUPPORT CB24-2025

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Bold steps are needed and we have to be bold leaders to enact the steps.

We don't burn coal in our buildings- progress mandated a change.

Please be bold enough to accept a better future. One that serves the needs of Howard County residents in general- not the wealthy developers who can afford to live elsewhere.

sincerely,
Gus Richard, Ellicott City

From: Carolyn Parsa <carolyn.parsa@mdsierra.org>
Sent: Monday, April 21, 2025 10:35 AM
To: Walsh, Elizabeth; Ball, Calvin; Jones, Opel; Yungmann, David; CouncilMail; Rigby, Christiana; Jung, Debra
Subject: Sierra Club Testimony for CB24-2025
Attachments: HoCo Sierra Club Testimony 4.21.25 Electrification CB24-2025.pdf

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County Council Members,

Please find the attached testimony from the Howard County Sierra Club on CB24-2025. Thank you.

--

Carolyn Parsa
Sierra Club Howard County Chair



April 21, 2025

George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

RE: CB24-2025

Members of the County Council,

The Howard County Sierra Club is asking for an amendment to CB24-2025, which is currently missing language related to building electrification.

This amendment is needed to complete the requirements set in motion when the County Council passed CB5, the Clean New Buildings Climate Act. This bill required the County Executive Calvin Ball to report on how the County Council would “enact all-electric building standards for all new construction, major renovation, and additions.”

After this language was developed as per the direction of CB5, the final step is to include it into CB24-2025. It is critical that language encouraging electrification of buildings be included in the new building codes so that our county can meet greenhouse gas reduction goals of 60% by 2030 and net zero by 2045. We need action on many fronts, including transportation, to meet these goals, but other actions can only take us so far. We cannot reach these goals without reducing the use of methane gas in buildings.

- Reducing the use of methane gas has many benefits including:
- Improved indoor air quality which reduces health disparities in asthma which disproportionately impacts minority communities.
- Improvements to outdoor air quality due to reductions in vented emissions from methane gas powered furnaces
- Better community health
- Increased safety by reducing the risk of methane gas explosion
- Greater energy efficiency resulting in monthly energy bill savings

The new code should align with the goals set out for Howard County to by encouraging the use of all electric appliances and systems for the direct benefit of Howard County residents as well as the greater benefit to the planet.

We urge the County Council to amend CB24-2025 to include language that will encourage electrification of buildings.

Carolyn Parsa, Chair
Howard County Sierra Club
carolyn.parsa@mdsierra.org

From: dsiglin@capitolhillpartners.org
Sent: Monday, April 21, 2025 3:55 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: testimony re CB24
Attachments: Siglin statement on CB24 for 4.21.25 hearing.pdf

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Hello

Please accept my attached statement on CB24 for tonight's legislative hearing record. Thank you. Doug Siglin

Do not despair. This is not a time to throw up our hands. This is a time to roll up our sleeves. This is a time to organize, to mobilize, and to stay engaged for the sake of freedom and justice and the future that we all know we can build together. Kamala Harris 11-6-24



Chair Walsh and Councilmembers, my name is Doug Siglin. I am a retired Republican Capitol Hill staffer and DC-based nonprofit leader. I have lived in Howard County for two decades. I volunteer for the CCAN Action Fund, on whose behalf I'm speaking tonight.

The bottom line is that I ask you to amend CB24 to require or strongly encourage electrification of all new construction.

55 years ago tomorrow, I was one of millions of people across America who celebrated the first Earth Day. Since then, something terrible has happened: the broad political consensus that Americans must work together to solve environmental problems has been destroyed. Back then, President Nixon and others across the political spectrum proudly called themselves environmentalists, or conservationists, recognizing that the words conservative and conservation come from the same root.

Even the archconservative Senator and 1964 presidential candidate Barry Goldwater wrote in 1970: *"Although I am a great believer in the free, competitive enterprise system and all that it entails, I am an even stronger believer in the right of our people to live in clean and pollution-free environments."* He went on: *"To this end, it is my belief that when pollution is found, it should be halted at the source, even if this requires stringent government action against important segments of our national economy."*

Today we are facing an extraordinary environmental crisis in global climate disruption. Atmospheric carbon is 33% higher than it was in 1965 when the White House Science Advisory Committee warned the President that we were already on track to dire consequences. And yet today state and local elected officials are being intimidated by the vindictive, head-in-the-sand White House, the prospect of being primaried, and the likelihood that every attempt to solve a shared environmental problem will end up in court.

I urge you not to be intimidated. It seems almost naïve for me to say this given what I just said, but you have a special opportunity here: to come together to help address the biggest environmental issue of our time. You're not going to solve the climate crisis on your own, but you can model the behavior that we all need to see.

The room tonight is full of people wearing green t-shirts that say "Be a Real Climate Leader." Leadership here means electrification. As the architects, engineers, and consumer advocates who are speaking tonight are telling you, the climate benefits, the health benefits, and the financial benefits are great. All-electric construction would reduce greenhouse gases. Respiratory benefits for children and older people are significant. Building costs for all-electric new buildings are the same, or in many cases less, than dual-fuel buildings. With electric heat pump/air conditioners, operational costs for homeowners, business owners, and tenants go down. The need for new infrastructure is minimal. There is plenty of grid capacity for the relatively few new buildings that will be built in Howard County.

You will no doubt get pressure from business interests, including the threat of lawsuits. If the past three years here and in Annapolis are any guide, they will come to you with misleading arguments about costs and grid capacity. Resist them. They are advocating for their interests. But their interests are not the interests of the people of Howard County, or the state, or the nation.

Amending CB24 will be the most important environmental thing that you do this year. As Senator Booker said at the end of his marathon speech: *"for all Americans, it's a moral moment. It's not left or right. It's right or wrong,"* Around the nation, people are watching you. Please show them that Howard County is willing to recognize the crisis we're in and proudly put on the mantle of environmental leadership.

You know, Howard County really is a special place. Many young families, including mine, have moved here because of the advantages that it offers. Amending this bill to help to achieve our climate goals, our health goals, and our financial goals will make Howard County an even better place to live and work. I urge all five of you to come together to amend the bill to include electrification of all new construction before passing it. Thank you.

From: Maria <mariaaebraheem@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 21, 2025 12:31 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Written Testimony 4/21 for CB24-2025
Attachments: Testimony 421 for CB24-2025.pdf

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Good afternoon,

I hope this email finds you well. Below I've linked my testimony for CB24-2025 for the legislative public hearing occurring tonight. Thank you.

Best,
Maria Ebraheem

Good evening.

My name is Maria Ebraheem and I am a student at River Hill High School.

I'm in my third year of high school, and I'm expected to think about my future: what college I'll go to, what career I want to have, etc. But how can I plan for the future when the choices we make today are putting that future at risk?

Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, the former minister of petroleum and mineral resources in Saudi Arabia, said that "the stone age came to an end not for a lack of stones..."

The stone age ended because something better came along: tools that improved daily life. Society progressed not because they had to, but because they could. Because better was possible.

We have the same opportunity today.

We have the resources, the technology, and the knowledge to build healthier, safer, and more sustainable homes. So why aren't we?

Aren't we often taught in school that a smart person learns from themselves, while a wise person learns from others?

Over 125 major cities including San Francisco, Los Angeles, Boston, and New York City have already taken that step. They've enacted building code amendments and performance standards to protect the well-being of their residents. New York City's Local Law 154, for example, requires new buildings to be all-electric, aiming to reduce the emissions from the city's largest buildings by 40% by 2030.

New York City has a population of 8.5 million.

The entire state of Maryland has just 6.2 million and Howard County, alone, has roughly 336,000.

If a single city—larger than our entire state—can lead this change, why can't we?

Data and research has shown that 81% of Howard County residents support healthy building standards, and, over the past two decades, 45% of heat-related deaths occurred at home. I don't know about you, but I don't want to walk in my house one day and find a loved one lying on the floor - gone - because we ignored the chance to build safer homes. Because we dismissed the possibility of better.

Thank you.

From: RoseMarie Meservey <rmmeserv@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 21, 2025 6:17 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Electrify Ho Co!

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Hi, my husband and I have lived in Howard County for over 4 decades. We're excited that our county has led the way on progressive measures like curtailing smoking in public places before that was a common practice in our region.

On behalf of my husband, Ron, and myself we implore you to set Howard County on a path that will protect the current and future generations by doing all that you can to expand the use of electricity and at least keep the playing field level as gas conglomerates seek to expand the installation of gas lines in new construction in Howard County.

Sincerely,
RoseMarie and Ronald Meservey
9447 Brett Lane
Columbia, MD 21045

From: Laurel Peltier <greenlaurel7@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, April 22, 2025 2:50 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Written testimony for Howard County CB 24-2025 Hearing
Attachments: Howard County Building Letter to County Council.pdf

Importance: High

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

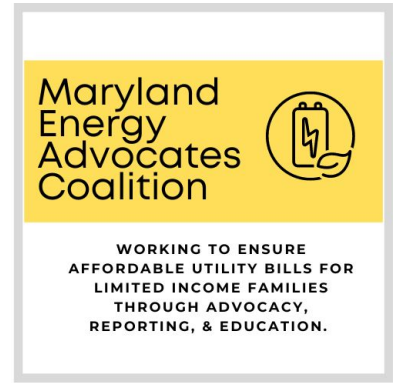
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Please find attached a written testimony PDF for your County Council's review regarding Building Codes CB 24-2025.

If this document isn't in the right format, or if you have any questions, please call me below. Thank you.

Laurel Peltier
[GreenLaurel7@comcast.net](mailto:greenlaurel7@comcast.net)
Chair, MD. Energy Advocates Coalition, AARP MD Utility Advocate
443-857-7777

Maryland Energy Advocates Coalition
Written Testimony
Howard County County Council
Building Standards CB24-2025
April 22, 2025



Howard County County Council:

Thank you for the opportunity to share our coalition's data about why smart Building Codes that rely on electrification will help all of your residents afford their future energy bills.

Our coalition is made up of many non-profits, advocates, foundations and we partner with state agencies to find solutions to ensure that Maryland's limited-income families can afford their utility bills.

A key reason to focus on electrification in future Howard County building codes that your County is serviced by BGE, the gas regulated utility.

BGE's gas rates are made up of 2 charges:

- 1) **Delivery/distribution**, the cost of pipes, trucks and the system to deliver the gas, and the
- 2) **Supply** commodity, the actual cost per therm of gas based on how much is burned by each residence. Gas is primarily used as a HVAC fuel in a residence, secondarily water heaters and stove tops.

BGE's gas distribution rates have tripled since 2010 and will increase every year going forward. ¹ The average residence heated with gas uses 940 therms of gas yearly. In 2025, families paid an extra \$600 each to fund increased gas pipe spending.

The regulated utility, owned, by Exelon, has significantly increased their gas infrastructure system capital spending to unprecedented levels. And BGE's residential and commercial accounts are paying that massive bill.

Residential delivery gas rates will substantially increase over the next 20 years. And due to increased gas costs, it's projected that businesses and families will migrate to electrification leaving fewer gas account holders to bear even higher costs burdens as gas users leave the system.

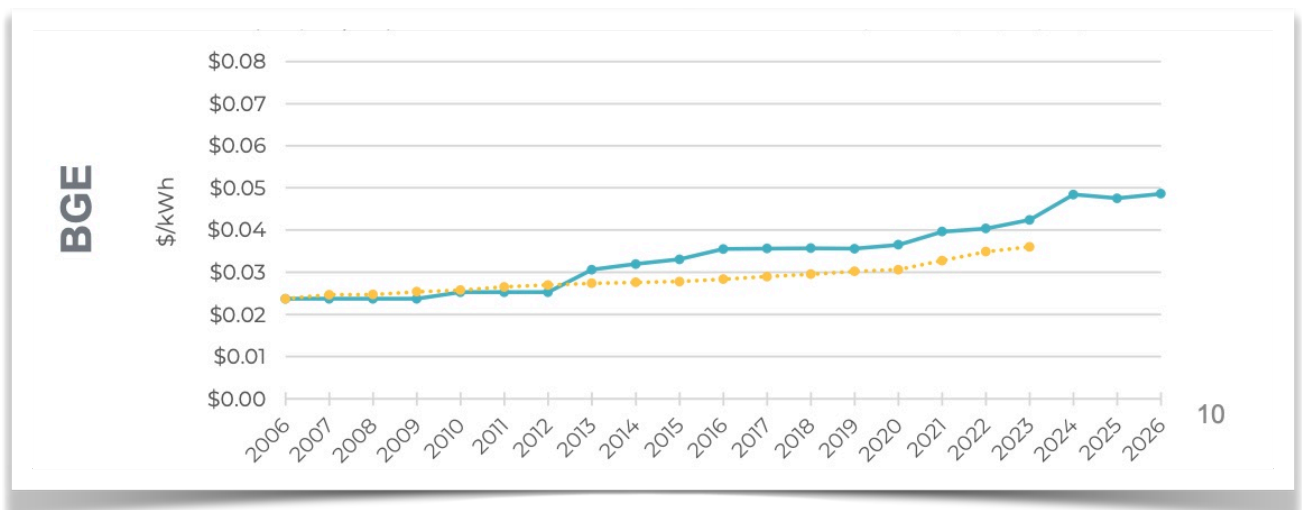
¹ https://opc.maryland.gov/Portals/0/Files/Publications/Reports/Utility%20Rates%20PowerPoint%202025%20updated%203-11-25.pdf?ver=WE3Jb5IAWghiYWH_u9RLrA%3d%3d

BGE Gas Delivery Rates Residential



Source: MD OPC Report, Page 29. Footnote #1

BGE Residential Electricity Distribution Rate / kWh



Source: MD OPC Report Page 10. Footnote #1

Strategically, there are common-sense reasons to support electrification in Howard County given marketplace dynamics:

1. Based on BGE's significantly higher current and future gas delivery rates, newer energy efficient HVAC, water heater and stovetop options will save residents money.
2. BGE's increased gas infrastructure spending is explained by improving safety to replace aging pipes. Yet federal PHMSA data reveals that aging gas pipes are only 4% of tragic incidents in the US, and only 1 case ever in Maryland, To date, that may change. Chart below.
3. HVAC and appliance manufacturers are producing more energy efficient and superior quality of electric appliances and HVAC systems. Requiring new Howard County buildings to lean into newer and energy efficient options sets up Howard County residents to afford future energy bills. See example below of new cold-client window heat pumps.
4. Homes that rely on electricity can utilize rooftop solar to generate their own, cost-effective energy to reduce their utility bills in the future. Rooftop solar doesn't apply to gas usage.
5. At a minimum, ensure that any new buildings focused on limited-income families have the highest energy efficiency standards possible to ensure energy burdens have a chance at hitting the 6% of income. Today, Howard County low-income energy burdens average 14% of income.

While energy-related topics can be complicated, we encourage your Howard County Counsel teams to review the latest residential electricity and gas trends as reported by Maryland Office of People's Counsel [reports](#).

The following reports web links are provided to learn more about the role gas pipe spending will play for Howard County residents' utility bills.

[Maryland's Utility Rates and Charges -- OPC report \(updated March 2025\)](#)

[Maryland's gas Utility Spending: projections & Analysis](#)

[Electrification in Maryland: Understanding "Headroom" \(January 2023\)](#)

Abell Foundation's: [The Trouble with STRIDE Gas Spending](#)

NEW Gradient Comfort Cold-Climate Heat Pumps



Looking to find solutions for New York Housing renters and residences in New York City's housing department ran an energy challenge. The winners were two manufacturers for cold-climate window heats pumps. These units use 120 volt outlets, don't block the window's view, can be installed in under 30 minutes. Costs \$3,800 each and heat and cool ~ 900 square feet. Midea and Gradient heat pumps.

From: Electrify HoCo - Electrify Our Future <electrifyhoco.eof@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 3, 2025 10:00 AM
To: CouncilMail; Jung, Debra; Rigby, Christiana; Walsh, Elizabeth; Jones, Opel; Yungmann, David
Cc: Ball, Calvin; Lattimer, Timothy; Frances, Robert; Shepter, Brian
Subject: Community Letter of support for new building electrification in Howard County
Attachments: Howard County Council Letter Electrify HoCo.EOF.pdf

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear County Councilmembers,

Please accept the attached letter showing community support for new building electrification in Howard County. We have 25 organizations and 128 constituents in support.

Respectfully submitted by Electrify HoCo/Electrify Our Future campaign

cc:

Dr. Calvin Ball, County Executive

Tim Lattimer, Community Sustainability Administrator

Bob Frances, Director of Department of Inspections, Licenses and Permits

Brian Shepter, Deputy Chief of Staff



May 2, 2025

Dear Councilmembers,

It is easy to be numbed by the drumbeat of sobering scientific reports measuring and predicting the coming warming of the atmosphere and the oceans. The most recent emissions report from the UN – in late October – warns that we are on track to reach more than twice the 1.5oC “safe level” of warming by the end of the century. As the report says, “a failure to increase ambition...would put the world on course for a temperature increase of 2.6-3.1°C over the course of this century. This would bring debilitating impacts to people, planet and economies.”

Given the results of the recent presidential election, it will be more important than ever for elected officials at the state and local level to lead on climate change. One of the few direct things that the Howard County government can do to really help slow down climate change is to make sure that new buildings and substantial renovations in the county use efficient electric heat and hot water appliances. In one sense this is a small step, as HoCo By Design projects a very modest amount of residential and commercial buildings in the county in coming years. However, as a model for the rest of the state and the nation, requiring new electric buildings would be a huge step forward.

We **(25 organizations and 128 constituents)** urge you to enact new Howard County building codes that require new buildings and substantial renovations in the county to use electric appliances for heat, hot water and other domestic uses. Doing so would also bring significant health benefits to those who live or work in clean buildings, as well as all of us who breathe Howard County’s air. It would also save owners and tenants thousands of dollars over time.

The County Executive submitted CB24-2024 to amend the current building codes in April. We encouraged him to include language requiring all-electric buildings, but unfortunately, he chose not to include that language. Therefore, we urge you to amend CB24-2005 to require or strongly encourage electrification of all new buildings and substantial renovations to benefit Howard County residents.

Sincerely,

(the undersigned organizations and Howard County residents)

Organizations - 25

[Baltimore Washington Conference of the United Methodist Church,](#)

[Creation Care & Legislative Advocacy](#)
[CASA](#)

[Chesapeake Climate Action Network](#)

[Citizens' Climate Lobby Howard County](#)

[Community Ecology Institute](#)

[Emmanuel United Methodist Church, Scaggsville](#)

[Firefly Club \(River Hill High School\)](#)

[HoCo Climate Action](#)

[HoCo Young Democrats](#)

[Howard Legacy Leadership Institute for the Environment \(HoLLIE\)](#)

[Howard County Sierra Club](#)

[Indivisible Howard County](#)

[Howard County League of Women Voters](#)

[Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake](#)

[InterFaith Power & Light \(DC.MD.NoVA\)](#)

[Jewish Community Relations Council, JCRC](#)

[KC CARES \(Village Environmental Group\)](#)

[Less Plastic Please](#)

[Maryland Ornithological Society](#)

[River Hill Watershed Committee](#)

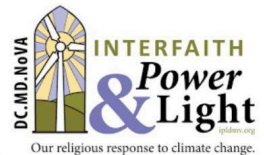
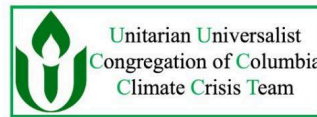
[Safe Skies Maryland](#)

[Sunrise Movement Howard County](#)

[Third Act Maryland](#)

[Transition Howard County](#)

[UU Congregation of Columbia Climate Crisis Team](#)



Legislative Advocacy
Baltimore-Washington Conference
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Community Ecology Institute



Creation Care
Baltimore-Washington Conference
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



KC CARES



Citizens' Climate Lobby
Howard County



emmanuel
an affirming community of faith



Constituents listed below:

Constituents - 128

District 1 - Walsh	District 2 - Jones	District 3 - Rigby	District 4 - Jung	Dist 5-Yungmann
Lisa Krausz Laurie Liskin Sydney Wallace Cheryl Arney Stephen Moffitt Patricia Soffen Monica O'Connor John Nader Margo Duesterhaus Omar Siddique Sabrina S. Fu Nancy Klein Virginia Klrk Dina Boogaard Shiowei Cheng Kelsey Ritter Rose Edwards Steven Nguyen Arti Sardesai Emily Loghmani	John Magoon Rochelle Ginsburg Ruth White Nathan Baum Gordon Fuller Alice Pham Thomas Armstrong Shelley Von Hagen-Jamar Wendy Hall, DVM, PhD Rabbi Michael Hess Webber Shari Glenn Vinaya Frank Jennifer Collins Dave Dittman Beth Hufnagel Melissa Affolter Janine Pollack Ronald Meservey Nathan Baum Bob Leker Miranda Whitham Richard Diener Kristine Barbieri Hans Plugge	Charlie Goedeke Mary Chiu Heather Stiltner Kelsey Ritter Liz Kato Liz Feighner Phil Webster Sree Saranya Ganti Roxanne Lefkoff Jean Silver-Isenstadt Wendy Alberg Vanessa Deutschmann Ruth Auerbach Christine Crandell Jeanne Bolton Albert Holm Mary Rodgers Neil Hunt Richard Deutschmann Kate Reilly Karen Palm Loni Cohen Austin Stahl Jill Storms Judith Park Alan Pflugrad Alexandra Nader Ellen Wetzal Korin Sharp Fran Ward Kaitlyn Pajerowski	Crystal Konny Michael Cornell Melissa Huselton Betsy Singer Arlene Kerber Linda Kangrga-Monroe Adam White Ron Robinson Andrew Monjan Carl Latkin James Sarlanis Iris Zhan Edward Gaddy Robin Hessey Cathy Whitney Mark Southerland Margaret LaFon Andrea R Cochran RoxanneHughes-Wheatland Tracey Manning Carole Klawansky Ruth Nimmo David Silverman Marianne Beauchamp Darrah Hall Shelley Greene	Ray McGowan Carla Tevelow James Palmer Shirley Matlock Irma Bensinger Wanda Prather Katherine Schmitt Patricia Brenza George Schmidt Sara Via Samuel Yoon Frank Hazzard Cliff Strawitch Laura Mettle Neal Goturi Anumita Kohli Sara khan Akhil Gurram Peter Alexander Steve Kirsh Mirande Bissell Doug Siglin Cynthia Sokolow Ann Strozyk Cynthia Williams Eric Kieley Madeline Casper
20	24	31	26	27

cc:

Tim Lattimer, Community Sustainability Administrator

Bob Frances, Director of Department of Inspections, Licenses and Permits

Brian Shepter, Deputy Chief of Staff

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Friday, June 20, 2025 9:49 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0070957 – opened and unassigned

Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: CB24-25 Testimony - Support w/ Am

Case Number: CS0070957

Case Opened: 06-20-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

06-20-2025 09:47:56 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

Colette Gelwicks (hear name<<https://namedrop.io/colettegelwicks>>) she/they
Chief of Staff for Councilwoman Christiana Rigby, District 3

Howard County Council
3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043
cgelwicks@howardcountymd.gov<<mailto:cgelwicks@howardcountymd.gov>>
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From: Suzanne Henig <henig3@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, June 5, 2025 8:14 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Please Amend CB24-2025

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if

Dear Christiana,

I am writing to ask you to amend CB24-2025 to require or seriously incentivize electric heat-pump space all new Howard County buildings, additions and substantial renovations. This builds, of course, on the re 2023, which you passed more than two years ago.

Here are three overwhelmingly compelling reasons to take this action:

1. Climate change: Space heat and hot water are a major contributor to global warming, which is far worse anticipated only a few years ago. Humans simply have to stop burning fossil fuels as quickly as possible. If a fossil fuel furnace or hot-water heater is installed, a commitment is made to producing greenhouse gas emissions to come.
2. Health: Scientific evidence continues to mount that burning fossil fuels in homes causes severe respiratory issues. A Spanish study attributed more than 40,000 premature respiratory deaths annually in the European Union to using gas stoves, and another recent study from Stanford concluded that "stove emissions significantly increase the risk of asthma in homes with medium to high gas stove usage and inadequate ventilation," with children's lifetime risk of developing asthma from stoves nearly twice that of adults.
3. Cost: According to the Maryland Office of People's Counsel, BGE's average winter natural gas bills may increase in the next decade from distribution costs alone. Electric prices are going up as well. The only solution to both is to quit using natural gas and to move to super-efficient electric heat pumps for space heat and hot water. All new buildings and additions need to be so equipped.

The grid has plenty of capacity to accommodate the relatively small number of homes and other buildings in Howard County in the years to come.

The Council has been working on this issue now for too long. Please take this step for your constituents and avoid further delay.

Sincerely your supporter and neighbor,

Suzanne Henig
9533 White Spring Way
Columbia, MD 21046

Ref:MSG6361191

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Friday, June 20, 2025 9:49 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0070954 – opened and unassigned

Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: CB24-25 Testimony - Support w/ Am

Case Number: CS0070954

Case Opened: 06-20-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

06-20-2025 09:47:55 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

Colette Gelwicks (hear name<<https://namedrop.io/colettegelwicks>>) she/they
Chief of Staff for Councilwoman Christiana Rigby, District 3

Howard County Council
3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043
cgelwicks@howardcountymd.gov<<mailto:cgelwicks@howardcountymd.gov>>
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From: jbolton05@verizon.net <jbolton05@verizon.net>

Sent: Friday, June 6, 2025 12:12 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Electrify HoCo--Let's do it right NOW!!!!

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if

Dear Concilmenber Rigby:,

I am a long-time resident of Kings Contrivance in Columbia--and my 3 adult children and 2 grrandchildre
Howard County. This bill is urgent for us now but particularly for their future. Climate change willl destroy
act boldly now.

I am writing to ask you to amend CB24-2025 to require or seriously incentivize electric heat-pump space
all new Howard County buildings, additions and substantial renovations. This builds, of course, on the re
2023, which you passed more than two years ago.

Here are three overwhelmingly compelling reasons to take this action:

1. Climate change: Space heat and hot water are a major contributor to global warming, which is far wor
anticipated only a few years ago. Humans simply have to stop burning fossil fuels as quickly as possible
fossil fuel furnace or hot-water heater is installed, a commitment is made to producing greenhouse gas e
come.

1. Health: Scientific evidence continues to mount that burning fossil fuels in homes causes severe respir
Spanish study attributed more than 40,000 premature respiratory deaths annually in the European Union
using gas stoves, and another recent study from Stanford concluded that “stove emissions significantly e
homes with medium to high gas stove usage and inadequate ventilation,” with children’s lifetime risk of c
stoves nearly twice that of adults.

1. Cost: According to the Maryland Office of People’s Counsel, BGE’s average winter natural gas bills m
next decade from distribution costs alone. Electric prices are going up as well. The only solution to both
is to quit using natural gas and to move to super-efficient electric heat pumps for space heat and hot wa
and additions need to be so equipped.

The grid has plenty of capacity to accommodate the relatively small number of homes and other building
Howard County in the years to come.

The Council has been working on this issue now for too long. Please take this step for your constituents
delay.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Bolton
7546 Red Cravat Ct
Columbia, MD 21046

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6361190

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Friday, June 20, 2025 9:49 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0070946 – opened and unassigned

Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: CB24-25 Testimony - Support w/ Am

Case Number: CS0070946

Case Opened: 06-20-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

06-20-2025 09:47:51 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

Colette Gelwicks (hear name<<https://namedrop.io/colettegelwicks>>) she/they
Chief of Staff for Councilwoman Christiana Rigby, District 3

Howard County Council
3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043
cgelwicks@howardcountymd.gov<<mailto:cgelwicks@howardcountymd.gov>>
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From: Loni Cohen <lcohen401@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, June 6, 2025 7:56 AM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: CB24-2025

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if

Dear Ms. Rigby,

I am writing to ask you to amend CB24-2025 to require or seriously incentivize electric heat-pump space all new Howard County buildings, additions and substantial renovations. This builds, of course, on the re 2023, which you passed more than two years ago.

Here are three overwhelmingly compelling reasons to take this action:

1. Climate change: Space heat and hot water are a major contributor to global warming, which is far worse anticipated only a few years ago. Humans simply have to stop burning fossil fuels as quickly as possible. If a fossil fuel furnace or hot-water heater is installed, a commitment is made to producing greenhouse gas emissions to come.

1. Health: Scientific evidence continues to mount that burning fossil fuels in homes causes severe respiratory illness. A Spanish study attributed more than 40,000 premature respiratory deaths annually in the European Union to using gas stoves, and another recent study from Stanford concluded that “stove emissions significantly increase the risk of death in homes with medium to high gas stove usage and inadequate ventilation,” with children’s lifetime risk of death from stoves nearly twice that of adults.

1. Cost: According to the Maryland Office of People’s Counsel, BGE’s average winter natural gas bills may rise in the next decade from distribution costs alone. Electric prices are going up as well. The only solution to both is to quit using natural gas and to move to super-efficient electric heat pumps for space heat and hot water. Repairs and additions need to be so equipped.

The grid has plenty of capacity to accommodate the relatively small number of homes and other buildings in Howard County in the years to come.

The Council has been working on this issue now for too long. Please take this step for your constituents delay.

Best regards,

Loni Cohen

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6361175

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Friday, June 20, 2025 9:49 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0070958 – opened and unassigned

Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: CB24-25 Testimony - Support w/ Am

Case Number: CS0070958

Case Opened: 06-20-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

06-20-2025 09:47:56 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

Colette Gelwicks (hear name<<https://namedrop.io/colettegelwicks>>) she/they
Chief of Staff for Councilwoman Christiana Rigby, District 3

Howard County Council
3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043
cgelwicks@howardcountymd.gov<<mailto:cgelwicks@howardcountymd.gov>>
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From: Ned Tillman <tillmanned@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, June 6, 2025 9:06 AM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject:

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if

Dear Council Member Rigby

We need your help! I would love for you to be a leader on this issue.

I am writing to ask you to amend CB24-2025 to require or seriously incentivize electric heat-pump space all new Howard County buildings, additions and substantial renovations. This builds, of course, on the re 2023, which you passed more than two years ago.

Here are three overwhelmingly compelling reasons to take this action:

1. Climate change: Space heat and hot water are a major contributor to global warming, which is worse anticipated only a few years ago. Humans simply have to stop burning fossil fuels as quickly as possible fossil fuel furnace or hot-water heater is installed, a commitment is made to producing greenhouse gas come.
2. Health: Scientific evidence continues to mount that burning fossil fuels in homes causes severe respiratory Spanish study attributed more than 40,000 premature respiratory deaths annually in the European Union using gas stoves, and another recent study from Stanford concluded that "stove emissions significantly c homes with medium to high gas stove usage and inadequate ventilation," with children's lifetime risk of c stoves nearly twice that of adults.
3. Cost: According to the Maryland Office of People's Counsel, BGE's average winter natural gas bills m next decade from distribution costs alone. Electric prices are going up as well. The only solution to both is to quit using natural gas and to move to super-efficient electric heat pumps for space heat and hot wa and additions need to be so equipped.

The grid has plenty of capacity to accommodate the relatively small number of homes and other building Howard County in the years to come.

The Council has been working on this issue now for too long. Please take this step for your constituents delay.

Sincerely,

Ned Tillman

Ned Tillman

443-472-3681

tillmanned@gmail.com<mailto:tillmanned@gmail.com>

www.SavingThePlaces.com<http://www.savingtheplaces.com/>

LinkedIn <https://www.linkedin.com/in/nedtillman/detail/recent-activity/><https://www.linkedin.com/in/nedtillman/detail/recent-activity/%3E>

Author of:

1. The Chesapeake Watershed
2. Saving The Places We Love
3. The Big Melt - Climate Fiction
4. Good Endeavour - Historical novel about man v. nature

Books available at Amazon.com <https://www.amazon.com/Ned-Tillman/e/B0028OC7Y8><https://www.amazon.com/Ned-Tillman/e/B0028OC7Y8%3E>

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6361195

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Friday, June 20, 2025 9:49 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0070955 – opened and unassigned

Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: CB24-25 Testimony - Support w/ Am

Case Number: CS0070955

Case Opened: 06-20-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

06-20-2025 09:47:55 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

Colette Gelwicks (hear name<<https://namedrop.io/colettegelwicks>>) she/they
Chief of Staff for Councilwoman Christiana Rigby, District 3

Howard County Council
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newsletter!<<https://visitor.r20.constantcontact.com/d.jsp?llr=76kbl66ab&p=oi&m=1131634797500&sit=4668d-4630-8ad1-1980878f625b>>

From: Albert Holm <holm_albert@yahoo.com>

Sent: Saturday, June 7, 2025 2:56 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: My support for an all-electric future for Howard County

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if

Dear Councilmember Rigby,

The text of this letter is boilerplate from Electrify HoCo, but I agree with them. I've always had all-electric homes in Maryland 48 years ago and I don't understand why any homes use gas appliances in this day

I am writing to ask you to amend CB24-2025 to require or seriously incentivize electric heat-pump space heating for all new Howard County buildings, additions and substantial renovations. This builds, of course, on the resolution passed in 2023, which you passed more than two years ago.

Here are three overwhelmingly compelling reasons to take this action:

1. Climate change: Space heat and hot water are a major contributor to global warming, which is far worse than anticipated only a few years ago. Humans simply have to stop burning fossil fuels as quickly as possible. If a fossil fuel furnace or hot-water heater is installed, a commitment is made to producing greenhouse gas emissions for the rest of its life. This will affect my children and grandchildren and generations to come.

1. Health: Scientific evidence continues to mount that burning fossil fuels in homes causes severe respiratory illness. A recent Spanish study attributed more than 40,000 premature respiratory deaths annually in the European Union to indoor air pollution from gas stoves, and another recent study from Stanford concluded that “stove emissions significantly increase the risk of asthma in homes with medium to high gas stove usage and inadequate ventilation,” with children’s lifetime risk of developing asthma from gas stoves nearly twice that of adults. Also, all-electric homes do not explode.

1. Cost: According to the Maryland Office of People’s Counsel, BGE’s average winter natural gas bills may increase by 50% in the next decade from distribution costs alone. Electric prices are going up as well. The only solution to both problems is to quit using natural gas and to move to super-efficient electric heat pumps for space heat and hot water. Existing homes and additions need to be so equipped.

The grid has plenty of capacity to accommodate the relatively small number of homes and other buildings in Howard County in the years to come.

The Council has been working on this issue now for too long. Please take this step for your constituents delay.

Sincerely,
Albert Holm

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6361180

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Friday, June 20, 2025 9:49 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0070947 – opened and unassigned

Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: CB24-25 Testimony - Support w/ Am

Case Number: CS0070947

Case Opened: 06-20-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

06-20-2025 09:47:52 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

Colette Gelwicks (hear name<<https://namedrop.io/colettegelwicks>>) she/they
Chief of Staff for Councilwoman Christiana Rigby, District 3

Howard County Council
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From: Mary Chiu <mnmnchiu@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, June 12, 2025 11:00 AM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Cc: Mary Chiu <mnmnchiu@gmail.com>
Subject: Adopt strong electric codes and lower utility bills

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if

Dear Councilmember,

As you prepare for the work session on the 2025 Building Code update, I strongly urge you to consider the burden gas is on your constituents. Last winter, businesses and residents in Howard County were hit with we opened our gas bills. Escalating gas prices are putting an enormous strain on Howard County - and

According to the Office of People's Counsel the driver of massive gas bill increases is BGE's investment in infrastructure, not the gas itself. The more pipes built, the more BGE profits and the more we pay. Electric is increasing (though not as much as gas). As the weather heats up, utility burdens will be felt by everyone

There is no good reason for the County to build new inefficient costly buildings. Today's heat pump technology is a hedge against rising utility bills because they use 3 to 4 times less energy. They cost less than or equal to old buildings and importantly are much cheaper to operate.

We are hopeful that given your opportunity to amend the 2025 Building Codes you will do so with your constituents' burden in mind. We urge you strongly to amend the codes to include cost-saving electric technologies.

Sincerely,

Mary C. Chiu

7974 Savage Guilford Rd, Jessup, MD 20794

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6361186

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Friday, June 20, 2025 9:49 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0070953 – opened and unassigned

Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: CB24-25 Testimony - Support w/ Am

Case Number: CS0070953

Case Opened: 06-20-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

06-20-2025 09:47:54 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

Colette Gelwicks (hear name) she/they
Chief of Staff for Councilwoman Christiana Rigby, District 3

Howard County Council
3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043
cgelwicks@howardcountymd.gov
410.313.2421

Sign up for our newsletter!

-----Original Message-----

From: Mary Rodgers <mary.rodgers@me.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 12, 2025 2:03 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>

Subject: Please adopt strong electric codes and lower utility bills

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Councilwoman Rigby,

As you prepare for the work session on the 2025 Building Code update, please consider how the growing financial burden of gas affects your constituents. Last winter, businesses and residents in Howard County were hit with sticker shock when we opened our gas bills. Escalating gas prices are putting an enormous strain on Howard County constituents - and there is no end in sight.

According to the Office of People's Counsel the driver of massive gas bill increases is BGE's investment in more and more infrastructure, not the gas itself. The more pipes built, the more BGE profits and the more we pay. Electricity rates are also increasing (though not as much as gas). As the weather heats up, utility burdens will be felt by everyone in the County.

There is no good reason for the County to build new inefficient costly buildings. Today's heat pump technologies are the best hedge against rising utility bills because they use 3 to 4 times less energy. They cost less than or equal to build than dual fuel buildings and importantly are much cheaper to operate.

We are hopeful that given your opportunity to amend the 2025 Building Codes you will do so with your constituents' energy burden in mind. We urge you strongly to amend the codes to include cost-saving electric technologies.

Sincerely,
Mary Rodgers
7553 Broadcloth Way, Columbia, MD 21046

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6361178

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Friday, June 20, 2025 9:49 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0070950 – opened and unassigned

Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: CB24-25 Testimony - Support w/ Am

Case Number: CS0070950

Case Opened: 06-20-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

06-20-2025 09:47:53 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

Colette Gelwicks (hear name<<https://namedrop.io/colettegelwicks>>) she/they
Chief of Staff for Councilwoman Christiana Rigby, District 3

Howard County Council
3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043
cgelwicks@howardcountymd.gov<<mailto:cgelwicks@howardcountymd.gov>>
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From: Phil Webster <phil.webster@me.com>

Sent: Thursday, June 12, 2025 9:29 AM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Adopt strong electric codes and lower utility bills

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if

Christiana,

As you prepare for the work session on the 2025 Building Code update, I strongly urge you to consider the burden gas is on your constituents. Last winter, businesses and residents in Howard County were hit with record gas bills. Escalating gas prices are putting an enormous strain on Howard County - and

According to the Office of People's Counsel the driver of massive gas bill increases is BGE's investment in infrastructure, not the gas itself. The more pipes built, the more BGE profits and the more we pay. Electricity is increasing (though not as much as gas). As the weather heats up, utility burdens will be felt by everyone

There is no good reason for the County to build new inefficient costly buildings. Today's heat pump technology is a hedge against rising utility bills because they use 3 to 4 times less energy. They cost less than or equal to older buildings and importantly are much cheaper to operate.

We are hopeful that given your opportunity to amend the 2025 Building Codes you will do so with your constituents' burden in mind. We urge you strongly to amend the codes to include cost-saving electric technologies.

Sincerely,
Phil Webster
7553 Broadcloth Way, Columbia, MD 21046

Phil Webster
phil.webster@me.com<mailto:phil.webster@me.com>

"If you have come to help me, you are wasting your time. But if you have come because your liberation is at stake, then let us work together."

Aboriginal activists group, Queensland, 1970s, from Lila Watson

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6361189

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Friday, June 20, 2025 9:49 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0070952 – opened and unassigned

Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: CB24-25 Testimony - Support w/ Am

Case Number: CS0070952

Case Opened: 06-20-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

06-20-2025 09:47:54 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

Colette Gelwicks (hear name<<https://namedrop.io/colettegelwicks>>) she/they
Chief of Staff for Councilwoman Christiana Rigby, District 3

Howard County Council
3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043
cgelwicks@howardcountymd.gov<<mailto:cgelwicks@howardcountymd.gov>>
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From: Richard D <rdeutschmann2@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, June 12, 2025 2:28 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Amendment to CB24 - 2025

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if

Dear Councilmember Rigby,

I am writing to ask you to amend CB24-2025 to require or seriously incentivize electric heat-pump space all new Howard County buildings, additions and substantial renovations. This builds, of course, on the re 2023, which you passed more than two years ago.

Here are three overwhelmingly compelling reasons to take this action:

1. Climate change: Space heat and hot water are a major contributor to global warming, which is far worse anticipated only a few years ago. Humans simply have to stop burning fossil fuels as quickly as possible. If a fossil fuel furnace or hot-water heater is installed, a commitment is made to producing greenhouse gas emissions to come.
2. Health: Scientific evidence continues to mount that burning fossil fuels in homes causes severe respiratory issues. A Spanish study attributed more than 40,000 premature respiratory deaths annually in the European Union to using gas stoves, and another recent study from Stanford concluded that "stove emissions significantly increase the risk of cardiovascular disease in homes with medium to high gas stove usage and inadequate ventilation," with children's lifetime risk of cardiovascular disease from stoves nearly twice that of adults.
3. Cost: According to the Maryland Office of People's Counsel, BGE's average winter natural gas bills may rise by 50% in the next decade from distribution costs alone. Electric prices are going up as well. The only solution to both is to quit using natural gas and to move to super-efficient electric heat pumps for space heat and hot water. Existing buildings and additions need to be so equipped.

The grid has plenty of capacity to accommodate the relatively small number of homes and other buildings in Howard County in the years to come.

The Council has been working on this issue now for too long. Please take this step for your constituents and avoid any delay.

Sincerely,

Richard & Vanessa Deutschmann
9485 Hickory Limb
Columbia, MD 21045
M - (410)707-4368

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6361179

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Friday, June 20, 2025 9:43 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0070935 – opened and unassigned

Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: CB24-25 Testimony - Support w/ Am

Case Number: CS0070935

Case Opened: 06-20-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

06-20-2025 09:42:21 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

Colette Gelwicks (hear name) she/they
Chief of Staff for Councilwoman Christiana Rigby, District 3

Howard County Council
3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043
cgelwicks@howardcountymd.gov
410.313.2421

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-----Original Message-----

From: Cynthia@everyactioncustom.com
<Cynthia@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Friday, June 13, 2025 5:06 PM

To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Electrify New Buildings in Howard County

WARNING!!!

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Dear Councilmember Christiana Rigby,

I'm a Howard County resident and a member of the Unusual Universalist Conversation of Columbia, PATH (People Acting Together in Howard) and the Maryland Just Power Alliance. I'm writing to ask you to amend the CB24-2025 bill to require or seriously incentivize electric heat-pump space heat and hot water in all new Howard County buildings, additions and substantial renovations.

After seeing the farmers of gas appliances first-hand, and learning how we can become more fuel efficient and more to green energy sounds through electrification, I now strongly believe we should make the switch and encourage this in new construction.

This amendment is necessary for our climate, health, and utility bills. We need to urgently stop burning fossil fuels to address climate change, and installing gas appliances in new buildings locks in pollution for years to come. Burning fossil fuels in homes also causes serious health problems like asthma. Our coalition's "Cooking Up Danger" report found that over 50% of homes we tested had unhealthy levels of nitrogen dioxide from gas stoves. We have also seen dangerous gas explosions in our communities. And finally, we need efficient electric appliances to bring down the skyrocketing cost of utility bills.

The grid has plenty of capacity to accommodate the relatively small number of homes and other buildings that will be built in Howard County in the years to come.

We call on you to make this amendment as soon as possible to benefit our future.

Sincerely,
Cynthia Marshall

howardcountymd.gov



From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Friday, June 20, 2025 9:43 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0070940 – opened and unassigned

Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: CB24-25 Testimony - Support w/ Am

Case Number: CS0070940

Case Opened: 06-20-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

06-20-2025 09:42:25 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

Colette Gelwicks (hear name) she/they
Chief of Staff for Councilwoman Christiana Rigby, District 3

Howard County Council
3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043
cgelwicks@howardcountymd.gov
410.313.2421

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-----Original Message-----

From: hkatzen7@everyactioncustom.com
<hkatzen7@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Friday, June 13, 2025 3:01 PM

To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Electrify New Buildings in Howard County

WARNING!!!

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Dear Councilmember Christiana Rigby,

I'm a Howard County resident and a member of PATH (People Acting Together in Howard) and the Maryland Just Power Alliance. I'm writing to ask you to amend the CB24-2025 bill to require or seriously incentivize electric heat-pump space heat and hot water in all new Howard County buildings, additions and substantial renovations.

This amendment is necessary for our climate, health, and utility bills. We need to urgently stop burning fossil fuels to address climate change, and installing gas appliances in new buildings locks in pollution for years to come. Burning fossil fuels in homes also causes serious health problems like asthma. Our coalition's "Cooking Up Danger" report found that over 50% of homes we tested had unhealthy levels of nitrogen dioxide from gas stoves. We have also seen dangerous gas explosions in our communities. And finally, we need efficient electric appliances to bring down the skyrocketing cost of utility bills.

The grid has plenty of capacity to accommodate the relatively small number of homes and other buildings that will be built in Howard County in the years to come.

We call on you to make this amendment as soon as possible to benefit our future.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Harriett Katzen

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6361094

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Friday, June 20, 2025 9:43 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0070941 – opened and unassigned

Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: CB24-25 Testimony - Support w/ Am

Case Number: CS0070941

Case Opened: 06-20-2025

Constituent:

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Details:

06-20-2025 09:42:25 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

Colette Gelwicks (hear name) she/they
Chief of Staff for Councilwoman Christiana Rigby, District 3

Howard County Council
3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043
cgelwicks@howardcountymd.gov
410.313.2421

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-----Original Message-----

From: james.connolly.law@everyactioncustom.com
<james.connolly.law@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Friday, June 13, 2025 3:35 PM

To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Electrify New Buildings in Howard County

WARNING!!!

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Dear Councilmember Christiana Rigby,

I'm a Ellicott City resident, a parishioner of St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church, and a member of PATH (People Acting Together in Howard) and the Maryland Just Power Alliance. I'm writing to ask you to amend the CB24-2025 bill to require or seriously incentivize electric heat-pump space heat and hot water in all new Howard County buildings, additions and substantial renovations.

This amendment is necessary for our climate, health, and utility bills. We need to urgently stop burning fossil fuels to address climate change, and installing gas appliances in new buildings locks in pollution for years to come. Burning fossil fuels in homes also causes serious health problems like asthma. Our coalition's "Cooking Up Danger" report found that over 50% of homes we tested had unhealthy levels of nitrogen dioxide from gas stoves. We have also seen dangerous gas explosions in our communities. And finally, we need efficient electric appliances to bring down the skyrocketing cost of utility bills.

The grid has plenty of capacity to accommodate the relatively small number of homes and other buildings that will be built in Howard County in the years to come.

We call on you to make this amendment as soon as possible to benefit our future.

Sincerely,
James Connolly

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6361093

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Friday, June 20, 2025 9:49 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0070948 – opened and unassigned

Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: CB24-25 Testimony - Support w/ Am

Case Number: CS0070948

Case Opened: 06-20-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

06-20-2025 09:47:52 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

Colette Gelwicks (hear name<<https://namedrop.io/colettegelwicks>>) she/they
Chief of Staff for Councilwoman Christiana Rigby, District 3

Howard County Council
3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043
cgelwicks@howardcountymd.gov<<mailto:cgelwicks@howardcountymd.gov>>
410.313.2421

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newsletter!<<https://visitor.r20.constantcontact.com/d.jsp?llr=76kbl66ab&p=oi&m=1131634797500&sit=4668d-4630-8ad1-1980878f625b>>

From: Suzanne Henig <henig3@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, June 13, 2025 2:27 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Adopt strong electric codes and lower utility bills

WARNING!!!

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Hi Christiana,

As you prepare for the work session on the 2025 Building Code update, I strongly urge you to consider the burden gas is on your constituents. Last winter, businesses and residents in Howard County were hit with high gas bills when we opened their gas bills. Escalating gas prices are putting an enormous strain on Howard County - and on our residents' sight.

According to the Office of People's Counsel the driver of massive gas bill increases is BGE's investment in gas infrastructure, not the gas itself. The more pipes built, the more BGE profits and the more we pay. Electricity prices are increasing (though not as much as gas). As the weather heats up, utility burdens will be felt by everyone.

There is no good reason for the County to build new inefficient costly buildings. Today's heat pump technology is a hedge against rising utility bills because they use 3 to 4 times less energy. They cost less than or equal to gas buildings and importantly are much cheaper to operate.

We are hopeful that given your opportunity to amend the 2025 Building Codes you will do so with your constituents' burden in mind. We urge you strongly to amend the codes to include cost-saving electric technologies.

With thanks from your friend and neighbor,

Suzanne Henig
9533 White Spring Way

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6361187

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Friday, June 20, 2025 9:43 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0070939 – opened and unassigned

Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: CB24-25 Testimony - Support w/ Am

Case Number: CS0070939

Case Opened: 06-20-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

06-20-2025 09:42:24 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

Colette Gelwicks (hear name) she/they
Chief of Staff for Councilwoman Christiana Rigby, District 3

Howard County Council
3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043
cgelwicks@howardcountymd.gov
410.313.2421

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-----Original Message-----

From: wcrutchfield1911@everyactioncustom.com
<wcrutchfield1911@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Friday, June 13, 2025 9:31 PM

To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Electrify New Buildings in Howard County

WARNING!!!

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Dear Councilmember Christiana Rigby,

I'm a Howard County resident and a member of PATH (People Acting Together in Howard) and the Maryland Just Power Alliance. I'm writing to ask you to amend the CB24-2025 bill to require or seriously incentivize electric heat-pump space heat and hot water in all new Howard County buildings, additions and substantial renovations.

This amendment is necessary for our climate, health, and utility bills. We need to urgently stop burning fossil fuels to address climate change, and installing gas appliances in new buildings locks in pollution for years to come. Burning fossil fuels in homes also causes serious health problems like asthma. Our coalition's "Cooking Up Danger" report found that over 50% of homes we tested had unhealthy levels of nitrogen dioxide from gas stoves. We have also seen dangerous gas explosions in our communities. And finally, we need efficient electric appliances to bring down the skyrocketing cost of utility bills.

The grid has plenty of capacity to accommodate the relatively small number of homes and other buildings that will be built in Howard County in the years to come.

We call on you to make this amendment as soon as possible to benefit our future.

Sincerely,
Mr. William Crutchfield

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6361092

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Friday, June 20, 2025 9:43 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0070938 – opened and unassigned

Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: CB24-25 Testimony - Support w/ Am

Case Number: CS0070938

Case Opened: 06-20-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

06-20-2025 09:42:23 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

Colette Gelwicks (hear name) she/they
Chief of Staff for Councilwoman Christiana Rigby, District 3

Howard County Council
3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043
cgelwicks@howardcountymd.gov
410.313.2421

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-----Original Message-----

From: jmcderm15@everyactioncustom.com
<jmcderm15@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 14, 2025 1:45 PM

To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Electrify New Buildings in Howard County

WARNING!!!

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Dear Councilmember Christiana Rigby,

I'm a Howard County resident and a member of PATH (People Acting Together in Howard) and the Maryland Just Power Alliance. I'm writing to ask you to amend the CB24-2025 bill to require or seriously incentivize electric heat-pump space heat and hot water in all new Howard County buildings, additions and substantial renovations.

This amendment is necessary for our climate, health, and utility bills. We need to urgently stop burning fossil fuels to address climate change, and installing gas appliances in new buildings locks in pollution for years to come. Burning fossil fuels in homes also causes serious health problems like asthma. Our coalition's "Cooking Up Danger" report found that over 50% of homes we tested had unhealthy levels of nitrogen dioxide from gas stoves. We have also seen dangerous gas explosions in our communities. And finally, we need efficient electric appliances to bring down the skyrocketing cost of utility bills.

The grid has plenty of capacity to accommodate the relatively small number of homes and other buildings that will be built in Howard County in the years to come.

We call on you to make this amendment as soon as possible to benefit our future.

Sincerely,
Judith McDermott

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6361088

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Friday, June 20, 2025 9:49 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0070951 – opened and unassigned

Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: CB24-25 Testimony - Support w/ Am

Case Number: CS0070951

Case Opened: 06-20-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

06-20-2025 09:47:53 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

Colette Gelwicks (hear name<<https://namedrop.io/colettegelwicks>>) she/they
Chief of Staff for Councilwoman Christiana Rigby, District 3

Howard County Council
3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043
cgelwicks@howardcountymd.gov<<mailto:cgelwicks@howardcountymd.gov>>
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newsletter!<<https://visitor.r20.constantcontact.com/d.jsp?llr=76kbl66ab&p=oi&m=1131634797500&sit=4668d-4630-8ad1-1980878f625b>>

From: Neil Hunt <nwhunt@gmail.com>

Sent: Saturday, June 14, 2025 9:38 AM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Escalating costs of gas energy

WARNING!!!

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Dear Councilmember Rigby,

As you prepare for the work session on the 2025 Building Code update, I strongly urge you to consider the burden gas is on your constituents. Last winter, businesses and residents in Howard County were hit with record gas bills. Escalating gas prices are putting an enormous strain on Howard County - and on our residents.

According to the Office of People's Counsel the driver of massive gas bill increases is BGE's investment in gas infrastructure, not the gas itself. The more pipes built, the more BGE profits and the more we pay. Electric bills are also increasing (though not as much as gas). As the weather heats up, utility burdens will be felt by everyone.

There is no good reason for the County to build new inefficient costly buildings. Today's heat pump technology is a hedge against rising utility bills because they use 3 to 4 times less energy. They cost less than or equal to gas buildings and importantly are much cheaper to operate.

We are hopeful that given your opportunity to amend the 2025 Building Codes you will do so with your constituents' burden in mind. We urge you strongly to amend the codes to include cost-saving electric technologies.

Sincerely,

Neil Hunt

7422 Declan Rd

Laurel, MD 20723

howardcountymd.gov



From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Friday, June 20, 2025 9:43 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0070937 – opened and unassigned

Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: CB24-25 Testimony - Support w/ Am

Case Number: CS0070937

Case Opened: 06-20-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

06-20-2025 09:42:22 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

Colette Gelwicks (hear name) she/they
Chief of Staff for Councilwoman Christiana Rigby, District 3

Howard County Council
3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043
cgelwicks@howardcountymd.gov
410.313.2421

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-----Original Message-----

From: holm_albert@everyactioncustom.com
<holm_albert@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 15, 2025 8:40 PM

To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Electrify New Buildings in Howard County

WARNING!!!

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Dear Councilmember Christiana Rigby,

I'm a Howard County resident and a member of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbia, PATH (People Acting Together in Howard) and the Maryland Just Power Alliance. I'm writing to ask you to amend the CB24-2025 bill to require or seriously incentivize electric heat-pump space heat and hot water in all new Howard County buildings, additions and substantial renovations.

This amendment is necessary for our climate, health, and utility bills. We need to urgently stop burning fossil fuels to address climate change, and installing gas appliances in new buildings locks in pollution for years to come. Burning fossil fuels in homes also causes serious health problems like asthma. Our coalition's "Cooking Up Danger" report found that over 50% of homes we tested had unhealthy levels of nitrogen dioxide from gas stoves. We have also seen dangerous gas explosions in our communities. And finally, we need efficient electric appliances to bring down the skyrocketing cost of utility bills.

The grid has plenty of capacity to accommodate the relatively small number of homes and other buildings that will be built in Howard County in the years to come.

We call on you to make this amendment as soon as possible to benefit our future.

Sincerely,
Mr. Albert Holm

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6361086

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Friday, June 20, 2025 9:43 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0070934 – opened and unassigned

Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: CB24-25 Testimony - Support w/ Am

Case Number: CS0070934

Case Opened: 06-20-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

06-20-2025 09:42:20 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

Colette Gelwicks (hear name) she/they
Chief of Staff for Councilwoman Christiana Rigby, District 3

Howard County Council
3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043
cgelwicks@howardcountymd.gov
410.313.2421

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-----Original Message-----

From: clbritt@everyactioncustom.com <clbritt@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 15, 2025 3:16 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>

Subject: Electrify New Buildings in Howard County

WARNING!!!

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Dear Councilmember Christiana Rigby,

I'm a Howard County resident and a member of PATH (People Acting Together in Howard) First Baptist Church of Guilford and the Maryland Just Power Alliance. I'm writing to ask you to amend the CB24-2025 bill to require or seriously incentivize electric heat-pump space heat and hot water in all new Howard County buildings, additions and substantial renovations.

This amendment is necessary for our climate, health, and utility bills. We need to urgently stop burning fossil fuels to address climate change, and installing gas appliances in new buildings locks in pollution for years to come. Burning fossil fuels in homes also causes serious health problems like asthma. Our coalition's "Cooking Up Danger" report found that over 50% of homes we tested had unhealthy levels of nitrogen dioxide from gas stoves. We have also seen dangerous gas explosions in our communities. And finally, we need efficient electric appliances to bring down the skyrocketing cost of utility bills.

The grid has plenty of capacity to accommodate the relatively small number of homes and other buildings that will be built in Howard County in the years to come.

We call on you to make this amendment as soon as possible to benefit our future.

Sincerely,
Carrie Britt

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6361078

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Friday, June 20, 2025 9:40 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0070933 – opened and unassigned

Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: CB24-25 Testimony - Support w/ Am

Case Number: CS0070933

Case Opened: 06-20-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

06-20-2025 09:40:04 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

Colette Gelwicks (hear name) she/they
Chief of Staff for Councilwoman Christiana Rigby, District 3

Howard County Council
3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043
cgelwicks@howardcountymd.gov
410.313.2421

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-----Original Message-----

From: Injnow@everyactioncustom.com <Injnow@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 15, 2025 9:11 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>

Subject: Electrify New Buildings in Howard County

WARNING!!!

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Dear Councilmember Christiana Rigby,

I live in Howard County, and I'm a member of Locust United Methodist Church, and a member of PATH (People Acting Together in Howard) and the Maryland Just Power Alliance. I'm writing to ask you to amend the CB24-2025 bill to require or seriously incentivize electric heat-pump space heat and hot water in all new Howard County buildings, additions and substantial renovations.

This amendment is necessary for our climate, health, and utility bills. We need to urgently stop burning fossil fuels to address climate change, and installing gas appliances in new buildings locks in pollution for years to come. Burning fossil fuels in homes also causes serious health problems like asthma. Our coalition's "Cooking Up Danger" report found that over 50% of homes we tested had unhealthy levels of nitrogen dioxide from gas stoves. We have also seen dangerous gas explosions in our communities. And finally, we need efficient electric appliances to bring down the skyrocketing cost of utility bills.

The grid has plenty of capacity to accommodate the relatively small number of homes and other buildings that will be built in Howard County in the years to come.

We call on you to make this amendment as soon as possible to benefit our future.

Sincerely,
Ms. Lori James

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6361030

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Friday, June 20, 2025 9:49 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0070945 – opened and unassigned

Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: CB24-25 Testimony - Support w/ Am

Case Number: CS0070945

Case Opened: 06-20-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

06-20-2025 09:47:50 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

Colette Gelwicks (hear name<<https://namedrop.io/colettegelwicks>>) she/they
Chief of Staff for Councilwoman Christiana Rigby, District 3

Howard County Council
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From: Gail Holm <gailholm@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, June 16, 2025 4:08 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: CB24-2025

WARNING!!!

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Dear Councilmember Rigby,

We can't go on ignoring the impending global disaster that will be the result of climate change. Granted, it's not the overall scheme of things, but we in Howard County must do what we can locally to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, protect the health of our children and keep energy costs reasonable.

I am writing to ask you to amend CB24-2025 to require or seriously incentivize electric heat-pump space heating for all new Howard County buildings, additions and substantial renovations. This builds, of course, on the resolution passed in 2023, which you passed more than two years ago.

Here are three overwhelmingly compelling reasons to take this action:

1. Climate change: Space heat and hot water are a major contributor to global warming, which is far worse than anticipated only a few years ago. Humans simply have to stop burning fossil fuels as quickly as possible. If a fossil fuel furnace or hot-water heater is installed, a commitment is made to producing greenhouse gas emissions for the rest of its life.

2. Health: Scientific evidence continues to mount that burning fossil fuels in homes causes severe respiratory illness. A recent Spanish study attributed more than 40,000 premature respiratory deaths annually in the European Union to indoor air pollution from gas stoves, and another recent study from Stanford concluded that "stove emissions significantly increase the risk of death in homes with medium to high gas stove usage and inadequate ventilation," with children's lifetime risk of death from respiratory illness nearly twice that of adults.

3. Cost: According to the Maryland Office of People's Counsel, BGE's average winter natural gas bills will increase by 50% over the next decade from distribution costs alone. Electric prices are going up as well. The only solution to both problems is to quit using natural gas and to move to super-efficient electric heat pumps for space heat and hot water. All new buildings and additions need to be so equipped.

The grid has plenty of capacity to accommodate the relatively small number of homes and other buildings in Howard County in the years to come.

The Council has been working on this issue now for too long. Please take this step for your constituents and don't delay.

Sincerely,

Gail Holm

10081 Fair Beauty 21046

--

Gail P. Holm
(she, her)

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6361185

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Friday, June 20, 2025 9:49 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0070949 – opened and unassigned

Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: CB24-25 Testimony - Support w/ Am

Case Number: CS0070949

Case Opened: 06-20-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

06-20-2025 09:47:52 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

Colette Gelwicks (hear name<<https://namedrop.io/colettegelwicks>>) she/they
Chief of Staff for Councilwoman Christiana Rigby, District 3

Howard County Council
3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043
cgelwicks@howardcountymd.gov<<mailto:cgelwicks@howardcountymd.gov>>
410.313.2421

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From: Jean Silver-Isenstadt <jeansi@verizon.net>

Sent: Monday, June 16, 2025 12:47 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: CB24-2025

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Dear Ms. Rigby,

It feels more important than ever for Howard County to lead boldly on mitigating climate change. Please require or seriously incentivize electric heat-pump space heat and hot water in all new Howard County buildings and substantial renovations. This builds, on the report language in CB5-2023, which passed more than two years ago. For environmental reasons, health reasons, economic reasons, and security, we need to accelerate our move to clean fuels.

Thank you,

Jean Silver-Isenstadt

10174 Deep Skies Drive

Laurel MD 20723

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6361177

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Friday, June 20, 2025 9:40 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0070932 – opened and unassigned

Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: CB24-25 Testimony - Support w/ Am

Case Number: CS0070932

Case Opened: 06-20-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

06-20-2025 09:40:03 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

Colette Gelwicks (hear name) she/they
Chief of Staff for Councilwoman Christiana Rigby, District 3

Howard County Council
3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043
cgelwicks@howardcountymd.gov
410.313.2421

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-----Original Message-----

From: maloneymatt7@everyactioncustom.com
<maloneymatt7@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2025 9:08 AM

To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Electrify New Buildings in Howard County

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Dear Councilmember Christiana Rigby,

I'm a Howard County resident and a member of PATH (People Acting Together in Howard) and the Maryland Just Power Alliance. I'm writing to ask you to amend the CB24-2025 bill to require or seriously incentivize electric heat-pump space heat and hot water in all new Howard County buildings, additions and substantial renovations.

This amendment is necessary for our climate, health, and utility bills. We need to urgently stop burning fossil fuels to address climate change, and installing gas appliances in new buildings locks in pollution for years to come. Burning fossil fuels in homes also causes serious health problems like asthma. Our coalition's "Cooking Up Danger" report found that over 50% of homes we tested had unhealthy levels of nitrogen dioxide from gas stoves. We have also seen dangerous gas explosions in our communities. And finally, we need efficient electric appliances to bring down the skyrocketing cost of utility bills.

The grid has plenty of capacity to accommodate the relatively small number of homes and other buildings that will be built in Howard County in the years to come.

We call on you to make this amendment as soon as possible to benefit our future.

Sincerely,
Mr. Matthew Maloney

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6361029

From: Deborah Lattimer <dalattimer@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2025 4:36 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: FOR CB 24-2025 amendment requiring electrification of new buildings

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Dear Howard Co. Council Members~Please amend CB 24-2025 with building standards that maximize energy efficiency and minimize the use of fossil fuels to improve air quality and lower energy costs, by requiring the electrification of new buildings.

In order to meet the greenhouse gas reduction goals of 60% by 2030 and net zero by 2045, Howard County must turn away from burning fossil fuels as soon as possible, especially in buildings. We can't meet climate goals without reducing methane. In addition, gas appliances in homes, especially gas stoves, pose health threats, with children in homes with gas stoves 42% more likely to develop asthma. A recent Office of People's Counsel report shows methane gas prices rising dramatically, while Maryland Department of Energy data shows all electric buildings are more affordable.

Thank you for your consideration,
Deborah Lattimer

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2025 12:42 PM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0070379 – opened and unassigned

Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Contact Howard County Council

Case Number: CS0070379

Case Opened: 06-17-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Summary:

Who would you like to contact?	District 3
Subject	Amendment to CB-24-2025
Message	Councilwoman Rigby, Please consider an amendment to CB24-2025 to enact energy-efficient, electric building standards for new construction, major renovations, and additions. Howard County needs to continue being a leader in the reduction of greenhouse gases. Thank you, Debra Ricigliano
First name	Debra
Last name	Ricigliano
Email	dericig78@outlook.com
Street address	9740 Knowledge Drive

City	Laurel
State	MD
Zip	20723

Details:

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6316485

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Friday, June 20, 2025 9:45 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0070943 – opened and unassigned

Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: CB24-25 Testimony - Support w/ Am

Case Number: CS0070943

Case Opened: 06-20-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

06-20-2025 09:44:51 AM EDT - Colette Gelwicks Additional comments

Colette Gelwicks (hear name<<https://namedrop.io/colettegelwicks>>) she/they
Chief of Staff for Councilwoman Christiana Rigby, District 3

Howard County Council
3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043
cgelwicks@howardcountymd.gov<<mailto:cgelwicks@howardcountymd.gov>>
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newsletter!<<https://visitor.r20.constantcontact.com/d.jsp?llr=76kbl66ab&p=oi&m=1131634797500&sit=4668d-4630-8ad1-1980878f625b>>

From: Richard D <rdeutschmann2@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2025 5:09 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Electrify Howard County

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Dear Councilmember Rigby,

There is a large body of scientific studies dating back about two decades showing that burning unvented harms human health. The principal focus of the studies is stoves and cooktops. Time after time, peer-reviewed US and Europe have shown that inhaling NO₂ from cooking with natural gas in small and poorly ventilated spaces causes significant respiratory issues, particularly in children.

In 2023, the American Lung Association, whose board and scientific advisory committee include dozens of doctors, told the Consumer Product Safety Commission:

“The American Lung Association recently released a comprehensive literature review of the health, indoor air quality, and environmental impacts of indoor fuel use. In it, we found that gas stove use contributes to several detrimental health outcomes. Stove exposure can worsen asthma symptoms, wheezing, and result in reduced lung function in children and vulnerable populations, particularly in the absence of ventilation and for children living with existing asthma or allergies. Additionally...research has established that exposure to pollutants emitted from a gas stove and other combustion appliances contributes to a variety of diseases including heart disease and stroke, asthma, COPD, lung cancer, diabetes, premature birth and respiratory infection.”

“While these emissions have the potential to impact all people, vulnerable populations such as children and people of color are especially impacted. In addition, occupants in smaller, older, and poorer ventilated homes or those in multi-unit buildings face an increased risk of exposure to numerous pollutants including those from gas stoves. This poses a disproportionate risk for low-income populations and people of color, who are already burdened by environmental justice issues and outdoor air pollution.”

Please ensure that new construction in Howard County does not allow this continued harm to come to our residents.

Sincerely,

Richard & Vanessa Deutschmann
9485 Hickory Limb, Columbia, MD 21045
M – (410)707-4368

Ref:MSG6361134

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Friday, June 20, 2025 9:45 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0070942 – opened and unassigned

Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: CB24-25 Testimony - Support w/ Am

Case Number: CS0070942

Case Opened: 06-20-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

06-20-2025 09:44:50 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: JT Nader <jtnader@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 18, 2025 10:39 AM
To: CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Help Save the Planet - Fix the Bill for Better Building Standards

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Dear Council Members,

I request that the Council amend the bill, CB 24-2025, with building standards that maximize energy efficiency and minimize the use of fossil fuels to improve air quality and lower energy costs. We have been working

towards this point for 3 years now, Don't Stall Now! There is no Planet B!

In order to meet the greenhouse gas reduction goals of 60% by 2030 and net zero by 2045, Howard County must turn away from burning fossil fuels as soon as possible, especially in buildings. We can't meet climate goals without reducing methane. In addition, gas appliances in homes, especially gas stoves, pose health threats, with children in homes with gas stoves 42% more likely to develop asthma. A recent Office of People's Counsel report shows methane gas prices rising dramatically, while Maryland Department of Energy data shows all electric buildings are more affordable.

Please do the right thing for the Common Good and not any particular special interest groups.

Sincerely, John Nader

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6361130

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Friday, June 20, 2025 9:40 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0070931 – opened and unassigned

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Case

Short Description: CB24-25 Testimony - Support w/ Am

Case Number: CS0070931

Case Opened: 06-20-2025

Constituent:

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Details:

06-20-2025 09:40:02 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

Colette Gelwicks (hear name) she/they
Chief of Staff for Councilwoman Christiana Rigby, District 3

Howard County Council
3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043
cgelwicks@howardcountymd.gov
410.313.2421

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-----Original Message-----

From: asalter575@everyactioncustom.com
<asalter575@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 19, 2025 9:49 AM

To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Electrify New Buildings in Howard County

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Dear Councilmember Christiana Rigby,

I'm a Howard County resident and a member of PATH (People Acting Together in Howard) and the Maryland Just Power Alliance. I'm writing to ask you to amend the CB24-2025 bill to require or seriously incentivize electric heat-pump space heat and hot water in all new Howard County buildings, additions and substantial renovations.

This amendment is necessary for our climate, health, and utility bills. We need to urgently stop burning fossil fuels to address climate change, and installing gas appliances in new buildings locks in pollution for years to come. Burning fossil fuels in homes also causes serious health problems like asthma. Our coalition's "Cooking Up Danger" report found that over 50% of homes we tested had unhealthy levels of nitrogen dioxide from gas stoves. We have also seen dangerous gas explosions in our communities. And finally, we need efficient electric appliances to bring down the skyrocketing cost of utility bills.

The grid has plenty of capacity to accommodate the relatively small number of homes and other buildings that will be built in Howard County in the years to come.

We call on you to make this amendment as soon as possible to benefit our future.

Sincerely,
Ms. Andris Salter

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6361028

From: Monica O'Connor <mdoconnor17@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 19, 2025 9:05 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Testimony given orally to Council in April on - CB 24-2025
Attachments: _CB24-2025, Howard County Building Codes.pdf

Flag Status: Flagged

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Dear Members,

Please consider my testimony (attached) which I gave orally during the hearing on Building Codes in April. It is my hope that Howard County will be a leader in building decarbonization by amending the codes to include strong cost effective electric measures for new construction.

Respectfully,

Monica Oconnor
MLC-Climate Justice Wing
co-chair



RE: CB24-2025, Howard County Building Codes
Contact: Monica O'Connor, co-chair MLC-Climate Justice Wing, Howard County Resident
mdoconnor17@gmail.com

Dear Chair and Committee Members:

Thank you for considering this testimony recommending adjustments to CB24-2025. I am a co-chair of the Maryland Legislative Coalition (MLC) Climate Justice Wing, a statewide coalition of nearly 30 grassroots and professional organizations and a resident of this county. I urge you in both capacities to adopt the 2024 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) with the caveat that it is amended to include building standards that maximize energy efficiency and minimize the use of fossil fuels to improve air quality and lower energy costs.

Requiring most new buildings to be built smart from the start, with better energy conservation and no on-site fossil fuel combustion for space and water heating will lessen operating costs, and be much better for the climate crisis we face. It is common-sense to ensure that new construction utilizes highly efficient, cost-effective electric appliances that use less energy, lower utility bills and are less polluting.

Last winter, many of us experienced sticker shock when we opened our BGE bills. Those of us on gas have seen our gas delivery charges [increase 50 percent](#) since 2020. Since 2010, BGE gas rates have increased nearly [three times](#) the inflation rate. Fortunately today's heat pumps are [three to four times](#) more efficient than fossil fuel heating equipment, and remain two to three times more efficient even in winter weather. The Maryland Energy Administration states, "heat pumps are an essential tool to lowering monthly energy bills and keeping electricity demand low year-round." Across Maryland, [98%](#) of households using high-efficiency electric appliances in place of fossil fuel heating equipment can save money on their monthly energy bills. Under today's electric rates, Maryland households on average can [save \\$1000](#) by adopting heat pumps and heat pump water heaters each year.

To hedge against untenable heating and cooling bills - and to lessen our climate impact my husband and I are slowly swapping out inefficient appliances for efficient heat pump technologies. It is expensive and time consuming to retrofit our historic house in Ellicott City - but updating any building is a challenge. There is no good reason to build energy inefficient buildings today that will need to be updated in the future. All electric buildings have been proven to reduce the cost of new construction by thousands of dollars for single family homes and importantly, cut lifetime energy consumption by 34% for single, multi-family and commercial buildings. Electrifying new buildings is especially beneficial to low-income residents who pay a higher share of their income on energy bills compared to residents statewide. This is why more than 100 state and local governments have enacted similar laws.

For these reasons I urge you to amend CB24-2025 to require or strongly encourage new building electrification.

From: Liz Feighner <liz.feighner@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 20, 2025 3:06 PM
To: CouncilMail; Walsh, Elizabeth; Jones, Opel; Rigby, Christiana; Jung, Debra; Yungmann, David
Subject: CB24-2025 - Adopting Updated Building codes

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Testimony: CB24-2025 - Adopting Updated Building codes
Position: Favorable only with amendments
Submitting: Liz Feighner, Council District 3

I am Liz Feighner, a 33 year resident in District 3 and a member of HoCo Climate Action, but I'm submitting this letter as a concerned activist about the climate emergency. 2024 was the hottest year in modern history and we are running out of time to act. I am urging the council to pass an amendment to CB24-2025 to "Build Smart From the Start" — enacting healthy building standards that use the latest energy-efficiency measures and encourage the adoption of efficient, electric equipment for all new buildings and major renovations.

Buildings are the second-largest source of climate pollution in Maryland behind transportation. Pollution from fossil fuel-powered HVAC and water heaters is responsible for \$1.3 billion health costs, linked to 3,500 cases of asthma symptoms and 163 premature deaths in 2017 alone. Fossil-fuel powered buildings emit more than three times as much health-harming nitrogen oxides (NOx) as all of Maryland's power plants. Pollution from burning fossil fuels in residential, commercial, and institutional buildings increased every year from 2017 – 2023.

Myself and members of HoCo Climate Action have been [advocating for building decarbonization since October 2020](#) and soon after [spearheaded a campaign](#) to electrify all new buildings in Howard County. We actively supported the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022 (CSNA) but were disappointed that it passed with only a study for all-electric new buildings, so we pivoted back to our Electrify HoCo campaign. In March 2023, [the County Council passed the Clean New Buildings Climate Act \(CB5-2023\)](#), requiring the County Executive to submit a report on changes needed to the county building code to ensure that future homes and buildings in Howard County rely on all-electric appliances, as well as several related policy items. This bill put the county on the pathway to all-electric new buildings. In November 2022, the Montgomery Council also voted to require new all-electric building standards.

Like most Marylanders, we want to see action on protecting our climate and health. Furnaces and water heaters fired with fossil fuel cause 16% of Maryland's greenhouse gases. Every new building that installs fossil fuel appliances adds to air pollution and climate change when the county and state are simultaneously devoting substantial funding on efforts to reverse these trends. CSNA commits us to a 60% GHG reduction by 2031 and net zero by 2045 and the County's Climate Action Plan commits us to a 60% GHG reduction by 2030 and also net zero by 2045. The year 2030 is a mere 5 years away, and 2045 is in 20 years. New appliances typically last 15 years and more. It is counterintuitive to continue to permit buildings that make efforts to achieve our climate goals more difficult to achieve.

The urgent need to transition away from burning fossil fuels in buildings was outlined in several official Maryland reports finalized in December 2023:

- *The climate crisis is upon us. Within just five years, global temperatures could breach the critical 1.5°C threshold, triggering catastrophic and irreversible consequences. This long-feared catastrophe is imminent - the time for meaningful climate action is now* ([Maryland Commission on Climate Change 2023 Annual Report](#) p.3)
- *We are motivated by our shared vision of a future where every building is fossil-fuel free. In this vision, residents can spend more of their hard-earned paychecks doing what they love, and businesses can reinvest in their products and services, rather than in energy bills.* ([Building Energy Transition Implementation Task Force report](#) p. 4)
- *To meet the statewide climate goals, a large portion of the statewide building stock will need to be updated.* ([Building Energy Transition Implementation Task Force report](#) p.9)
- *...given the scale of Maryland's GHG reduction goals, efficiency is a necessary but insufficient building decarbonization solution, as buildings will also need to stop burning fossil fuels like gas and oil onsite by switching to electric equipment to meet the same needs* ([Building Energy Transition Implementation Task Force report](#) p.10)
- *The transition to a clean energy economy requires millions of fuel-burning devices to be replaced with efficient, zero-emission alternatives.* ([Maryland Climate Reduction Plan](#) p. 12)
- *Billions of dollars in investments from the Inflation Reduction Act and other sources are already converging with current federal and state policies to transition to zero-emission vehicles, buildings, electricity sources, and more. New policies and investments will quicken the pace of decarbonization.* ([Maryland Climate Reduction Plan](#) p. 15)
- *[Maryland's 2030 GGRA Plan](#) called for the state to accelerate the transition of fossil fuel heating equipment in buildings to efficient electric equipment that can be powered by clean electricity.* ([Maryland Climate Reduction Plan](#) p.35)
- *Maryland is among several states moving to adopt zero-emission appliance/heating equipment standards...Modern heat pumps are more than capable of meeting 100% of the heating demand of Maryland buildings, as evidenced by the fact that heat pumps are already commonly used in buildings statewide.* ([Maryland Climate Reduction Plan](#) p. 39)

Continuing to construct fossil-fueled buildings that will need costly retrofits within a decade or so poses an unnecessary burden on the state and residents. We will end up in an endless game of Whac-A-Mole if we insist on building 20th century buildings that need to be quickly retrofitted for the 21st century and beyond. We can and should avoid this costly transition work by building smart from the start. Additionally, those new buildings that will eventually be covered under Building Energy Performance Standards (BEPS) regulations will be at an advantage if they begin as efficient electric buildings.

In most if not all new buildings, the cost of all-electric construction is cheaper, as are the costs to operate electric appliances. While electricity rates are expected to rise, “natural” gas rates [are expected to skyrocket](#). Today, it costs the average resident \$200 a year to just be connected to gas and that doesn’t include the gas usage costs. This charge is [expected to rise exponentially as more customers transition off gas](#) leaving fewer customers to foot the bill for maintaining the gas infrastructure.



All-electric design is expected to be the less expensive option

- + All-electric new construction is cheaper than mixed-fuel new construction for single-family residential homes across all decarbonization scenarios due to both lower capital (with avoided gas connection) and operating costs



From [Maryland Building Decarbonization Study](#) page 65 (this was an report for [Appendix A, Building Transition Plan](#) for the [2021 Maryland Commission on Climate Change Report](#))

NOTE: O&M is operation and maintenance. [Click](#) to enlarge.

On Dec. 29, 2023, the Public Service Commission published the report, [An Assessment of Electrification Impacts on the Maryland Electric Grid](#), an electrification study required by the CSNA. This study demonstrates that the Maryland distribution grid is well positioned to manage the transition to electrification even during peak summer demand.

Heat pumps dehumidify better than central AC units, which means they use less energy to cool your home, making them an essential tool to maintain comfortable temperatures and lower monthly energy bills during extreme heat events. **So, unless we totally halt construction of all new buildings or build them without air conditioning, new buildings with strong energy efficiency requirements will actually reduce the electricity demand, compared with traditional new buildings, especially during peak summer demand.**

I strongly urge the council to pass an amendment to CB24-2025 to “Build Smart From the Start” — enacting healthy building standards that use the latest energy-efficiency measures and encourage the adoption of efficient, electric equipment for all new buildings and major renovations.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Feighner
Laurel MD 20723
District 3

“Winning Slowly Is the Same as Losing” ~ Bill McKibben

“We do not inherit the Earth from our Ancestors; we borrow it from our children” ~ Native American Proverb

From: Maria <mariaaebraheem@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 20, 2025 6:32 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Written Testimony Submission in Support of Amending CB24-2025
Attachments: Written Testimony in Support of Amending CB24-2025 3.pdf

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Dear Councilmembers,

My name is Maria Ebraheem, a student at River Hill High School, and a resident of Howard County. Please find attached written testimony in support of amending CB24-2025.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Maria Ebraheem
Clarksville, MD



Dear County Councilmembers,

As students of Howard County, we are deeply concerned about the future we are inheriting. Climate change is no longer a distant threat—it’s already disrupting our lives with more extreme weather, worsening air quality, and growing risks to our health and economy. The most recent reports from the UN warn that we are on track to surpass the 1.5°C “safe limit” of warming, with global temperatures potentially rising by 2.6 to 3.1°C by the end of the century. That kind of increase would have devastating consequences for our generation and beyond. But we believe Howard County can be part of the solution.

Right now, the County Council has the opportunity to enact forward-thinking building codes that will impact not only the environment but also the well-being of every student, family, and worker in our community. By requiring new buildings and major renovations to use efficient electric appliances for heating, hot water, and cooking, rather than polluting fossil fuels, we can improve indoor air quality, reduce harmful emissions, and cut long-term energy costs.

This is a chance for local leadership to take real climate action. In fact, it’s one of the few direct steps the County can take to reduce emissions right now. While HoCo By Design projects that only a modest portion of buildings will be affected each year, the long-term benefits of cleaner air, safer homes, and climate resilience are enormous.

We—students and community organizations and 128 total signatories, in addition to the additional 111 students who signed below, urge you to amend CB24-2025 to require or strongly encourage all-electric standards for new buildings and substantial renovations. The County Executive’s April proposal (CB24-2024) left out this critical provision, and we’re asking you to step up and include it now.

We want our schools and communities to be part of a healthier, safer, more sustainable future. This is not just about buildings, it’s about the kind of world we want to grow up in.

Sincerely,
(the student individual signers and Howard County residents)

Organizations: 27

Baltimore Washington Conference of the United Methodist Church, Creation Care & Legislative Advocacy CASA, Chesapeake Climate Action Network, Citizens' Climate Lobby Howard County, Community Ecology Institute, Emmanuel United Methodist Church, Scaggsville Firefly Club (River Hill High School), HoCo Climate Action, HoCo Young Democrats, Howard Legacy Leadership Institute for the Environment (HoLLIE), Howard County Sierra Club, Indivisible Howard County, Howard County League of Women Voters, Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake, InterFaith Power & Light (DC.MD.NoVA), Jewish Community Relations Council, JCRC KC CARES (Village Environmental Group), Less Plastic Please, Maryland Ornithological Society, River Hill Watershed Committee, Safe Skies Maryland, Sunrise Movement Howard County, Third Act Maryland, Transition Howard County, UU Congregation of Columbia Climate Crisis Team



Student Constituents: 110

Name	School
Anirudh Kukata	River Hill High School
Dhruv Dobariya	River Hill High School
Sidaarth Karegowdra	River Hill High School
Maya Aminian	River Hill High School
Shriya Khosla	River Hill High School

Ivy Nguyen	River Hill High School
Maya Gambhir	River Hill High School
Samantha wu	River Hill High School
Grace Mathews	River Hill High School
Mohammed Emira	River Hill High School
Khushi Patel	River Hill High School
Henry Yarmus	River Hill High School
Sophia Chudnovsky	River Hill High School
Nikita Mohan	River Hill High School
Simar Sawhney	River Hill High School
Rebecca Egana	River Hill High School
Lauren Jee	River Hill High School
Natalia Reid	River Hill High School
Suhanni Patel	River Hill High School
Maha Chadhry	River Hill High School
Kate Tulis	River Hill High School
Emma Burk	River Hill High School
Matthew Sotomey	River Hill High School
Sonya Gupta	River Hill High School
Bella Hynes	River Hill High School
Cate Lacy	River Hill High School
Noelle Goitom	River Hill High School
Stephanie Albert	River Hill High School
Arianna Zand	River Hill High School
Mahi Patel	River Hill High School
Mali Dalal	River Hill High School
Alex Gess	River Hill High School
Shane Shreck	River Hill High School
Arianne Wicks	Reservoir High School
Ismail Taj	River Hill High School
Brenden Gandel	River Hill High School
Aiden Leung	River Hill High School
Noah Pak	River Hill High School
Nyle Imtiaz	River Hill High School
Shorbodaman De	River Hill High School

Shrij Desai	River Hill High School
Jincheng Zhang	River Hill High School
Manu Sakhamuri	River Hill High School
Brian Lu	River Hill High School
Emily Dong	River Hill High School
Evan Ong	River Hill High School
Shrenik Nareddy	Atholton High School
Milan Sanyal	River Hill High School
Julienne Tran	River Hill High School
Anji Ojeyomi	River Hill High School
David Seylar	River Hill High School
Zaina Chowdhury	River Hill High School
Jonah Nguyen	River Hill High School
Olivia Campbell	River Hill High School
David Wu	River Hill High School
Emina Alamo	River Hill High School
Lucas Ballou	River Hill High School
Chaitra Dodda	River Hill High School
Reed Peterson	River Hill High School
Aryan Patel	River Hill High School
Kalan Patel	River Hill High School
Max Weimar	River Hill High School
Riley Parks	River Hill High School
Alec Marks	River Hill High School
Aleesa Zirvi	River Hill High School
Rian Omar	River Hill High School
Roary Chen	River Hill High School
Anjana Chakrabarty	River Hill High School
Shalin Vakil	Atholton High School
Aarav Wariyar	River Hill High School
Paul Mason	River Hill High School
Wizly Sov	River Hill High School
Adam Johnson	River Hill High School
Jay Patel	River Hill High School
Shea Divver-Bono	River Hill High School

Saahib Singh	River Hill High School
Achinthya Karanji	River Hill High School
Arinze	River Hill High School
Alexis Pages	River Hill High School
Bella O'Rourke	River Hill High School
Soren Dashti	River Hill High School
Nikhil Sardana	River Hill High School
Colin Tran	River Hill High School
Annabelle	River Hill High School
Kevin He	River Hill High School
Kavya Joy	River Hill High School
Sanjay Vettiamkunnath	River Hill High School
colin tran	River Hill High School
Siri Mandepudi	River Hill High School
Veronica Park	River Hill High School
Ian Yoon	River Hill High School
Greg Smith	Oakland Mills High School
Chai Raghavan	River Hill High School
Mitra Aminian	River Hill High School
Emily Ma	River Hill High School
Allison Nichols	River Hill High School
Leilani Ryang	River Hill High School
Emily Dong	River Hill High School
Yara Aziz	River Hill High School
Zoe Irvin	River Hill High School
Aubrey Iacobellis	River Hill High School
Saanvi Mishra	Reservoir High School
Maria Ebraheem	River Hill High School
Hailey Carballo	Glenelg High School
Advik Managalarapu	Glenelg High School
Siddharth Perumalla	Glenelg High School
Abhi Rodda	Glenelg High School
Addie Tracy	Glenelg High School
Adi Bhandari	Glenelg High School
Luca Mannino	Glenelg High School