

ELECTRIFY SAN JOSÉ: A Framework for Building Electrification

The Framework offers strategies to support San José residents and businesses in electrifying homes and businesses, transitioning from natural gas to electricity.

GETTING READY FOR A CLEAN ENERGY FUTURE

In San José, the use of fossil fuel gas (natural gas, or methane) in buildings – largely for space and water heating – is the **second-largest source of greenhouse gas emissions**. Because electricity is much cleaner than natural gas, switching from gas to electricity will dramatically reduce carbon emissions.

The Framework provides strategies to encourage and incentivize San José residents, business owners, and job-seekers to get ready for the coming transition to a clean energy future.

The Framework recommends ways for San José to:

- Raise awareness of the negative health and climate impacts of using gas and the benefits of using electric appliances;
- Encourage the growth of high-quality local jobs in building electrification;
- Reduce housing and energy costs through new supportive city programs; and
- Increase access to clean, affordable, reliable energy in San José.

The Framework does not include any mandates or require electrification of homes or businesses.

BENEFITS OF BUILDING ELECTRIFICATION

Climate change is creating a critical need to electrify our buildings, but there are also more reasons to act:

- **Cleaner air and better health:** Gas appliances produce toxic gasses that can lead to respiratory illnesses such as asthma.
- **Lower costs:** Modern electric appliances are much more energy efficient than gas appliances, so most homes that go all-electric see cost savings on utility bills.
- **New job opportunities:** Building electrification is a rapidly growing field that is transforming the building workforce with green, local jobs.

EQUITY AS A PRIORITY

The City recognizes that building electrification brings potential benefits and risks to San José communities, especially those that have been historically marginalized. City staff co-created the Framework with local organizations, and gathered input from the broader community, to ensure it includes community needs and priorities. The Framework recommends strategies to make electrification easier and more accessible for **ALL** San José residents.

