



SENATOR DAVE CORTESE

SB 30 The State Buildings Decarbonization Act of 2021

SUMMARY

SB 30 mandates that state buildings and facilities achieve carbon-neutrality by 2035, that the state divest from projects that are not zero emission by 2023, and that all newly designed and constructed state buildings be zero emission beginning in 2022.

ISSUE & BACKGROUND

The State Air Resources Board finds that California's building energy use accounts for almost 25 percent of our statewide greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. In 2016, California's building stock was responsible for directly emitting 37 million metric tons of greenhouse gases.

Because a third of California's 2045 building stock will be built between now and 2045, decarbonizing newly constructed buildings is key to reaching the state's fossil fuel reduction targets, including returning the state to its 1990 GHG emission levels by 2020, going 40 percent below our 1990 GHG emission levels by 2030, and achieving carbon neutrality by 2045.

To "decarbonize" a building is to remove GHG emissions from a building's energy use and ensure that the building relies solely on renewable, zero emission sources. In general, all-electric "decarbonized" buildings cost less to build to code than those requiring additional gas infrastructure. They also enhance indoor and outdoor air quality, reduce safety risks associated with gas, and improve public health. Over 50 cities and counties in California have considered policies to support net-zero emission construction, while 39 have already updated their building codes to become GHG-free.

Electrifying our building stock also has the added benefit of job creation as it produces a new demand for skilled workers. One [UCLA study](#) revealed that electrifying 100% of California's building stock by 2045 could generate over 100,000 full-time equivalent jobs.

Existing California law states that all state buildings should be models for energy efficiency and the state has often led by example, taking substantial steps to reduce the environmental impacts of state agencies and facilities. This includes the Green Building Action Plan in Governor Brown's 2012 Executive Order B-18-12 that required state agencies to prepare annual inventories of their GHG emissions and reduce their emissions by at least 10% by 2015 and 20% by 2020, measured against a 2010 baseline.

Given the state's ambitious climate goals and the mounting dangers of climate change on our environment, health, air quality, and well-being, now is an opportune time to expand the scope of our previous efforts to reduce emissions from state entities.

THIS BILL

This bill would prohibit all state agencies from constructing or designing new facilities that are connected to the natural gas grid beginning on January 01, 2022. It would also prohibit the state from providing funding or support to projects that are not zero-emission beginning on January 01, 2023, except in cases where lack of funding from the state would result in the loss of federal or other funding and only if said project offsets their projected GHG emissions through other means. Lastly it would require the Department of General Services to develop The California State Building Decarbonization Plan that will ensure all existing state-owned buildings reach carbon-neutrality by 2035.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Sunshine Borelli
Office of Senator Dave Cortese
(916) 651-4015
Sunsine.Borelli@sen.ca.gov