



# SENATOR DAVE CORTESE

## SB 32 The Decarbonization Act of 2021

### SUMMARY

SB 32 requires all cities and counties in California to update their General Plans with objectives, targets, and policies to decarbonize newly constructed buildings.

### ISSUE

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.

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. However, the state has not yet taken action to ensure all cities and counties in California take similar measures to embrace building decarbonization. Cities, counties, and the state must make a joint effort to decarbonize their building stock if we are to meet the state's ambitious goals.

### BACKGROUND

California Planning and Zoning Law requires each city and county to prepare and adopt a General Plan to serve as a long-range guide for their land use and development. Elements of a General Plan include housing, land use, open space, conservation and more.

Every three years, cities and counties across the state adopt the new Building Energy Efficiency Standards for all buildings, or Title 24 of the California Code of

Regulations, that is updated by the California Energy Commission (CEC).

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.

### THIS BILL

This bill would require all cities, including charter cities, and counties, to incorporate building decarbonization requirements into the appropriate section of their General Plan by January 1, 2023. These General Plan amendments should include a report on greenhouse gas emission data for existing commercial and residential buildings; a summary of local, state, and federal policies, programs, and regulations that may assist in the decarbonization of existing and newly constructed commercial and residential buildings; and a comprehensive set of feasible implementation strategies to decarbonize newly constructed commercial and residential buildings consistent with the state's emission reduction targets.

Draft General Plan amendments from each city and county should be sent to the CEC 45 days prior to adoption and any comments from the Commission should be considered prior to adoption.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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