

## **Workshop 3: How can cities lead in electrifying operations and enabling electrification in their city?**

Karen Kristiansson, Bay Area Regional Energy Network (BayREN) Codes and Standards Program Manager, provided attendees with a robust toolkit of resources. Resource links can be found on the [Workshop 2 Handout](#). During her presentation, Karen shared policy options for cities to consider regarding municipal and private building electrification.

### **Municipal Buildings**

Two actions cities could take to transition their municipal building portfolio to all-electric are: (1) make sure new buildings are all-electric and energy efficient, and (2) prepare action plans to convert existing buildings to all-electric. By preparing action plans for existing building electrification, municipalities can budget and prepare their buildings for the transition (i.e., pre-wiring and electrical panel upgrades/optimization). A municipal building portfolio needs assessment can be a helpful first step to understand which buildings have equipment nearing the end of their useful life or require electrical system improvements to support all-electric appliances.

One policy option for cities to consider is adoption of a policy requiring municipal buildings to be carbon free by a specific year.

### **Private Buildings**

An important way for cities to engage in private building electrification efforts is educating the public by sharing resources such as The Switch is On.

A specific policy option cities can consider is adopting a reach code. The reach code could require building benchmarking triggered by certain events such as sale of a home, building renovations of a certain size, replacement of gas appliances with electric ones by a certain date, or new construction to be built without natural gas infrastructure.

### **High-Level Takeaway**

There are numerous proven policy options and resources to achieve goals related to all-electric municipal and private buildings. These options can be tailored to fit a municipality's needs and goals.

### **Discussion & New Information**

While there are no current incentives for existing municipal, commercial, and/or industrial building electrification, because IRA programs are still being built out, staff are hopeful that incentives for electrification of these existing building types will become available.

PG&E's Government and K-12 Pilot implemented by Willdan offers almost no-cost heat pump water heaters for local governments and schools that meet certain criteria.

The Rodeo Sanitary District is looking for innovative ways to fund electrification of its facilities.

On the topic of streamlining permitting for all-electric appliances, the BayREN Codes and Standards program offers resources related to permitting heat pump water heater systems developed after conversations with contractors and building departments.

The Local Energy Code Cost Effectiveness Explorer is a great resource for building the case in favor of all-electric buildings.

MCE's Strategic Energy Management Program could be a good resource for municipalities wanting to prepare their buildings for electrification.

### **Main Ideas for Action or Next Steps**

Municipalities can consider doing a building portfolio analysis and engage in strategic planning initiatives to inventory existing assets and their conditions. This can be a good place to start figuring out what equipment needs to be replaced and how to fund municipal building improvements.

The need to educate citizens is extremely important. Part of this work is just learning what questions to ask and where to look for resources!