

I'm a Brooklyn homeowner who recently decommissioned a gas furnace and installed heat pumps. I am happy about the great drop in my carbon emissions. Where I used to burn 11 therms of energy per day using my steam heat system, I now use only 3 therms a day to run my heat pumps. Though it's true that the electricity that produces those 3 therms a day still comes largely from fossil fuels, the reduction in energy I use overall makes my heart sing! So I appreciate the scoping plan's inclusion of 1-4 family housing electrification goals.

What worries me is the lack of a financing source to continue and expand the electrification of home heating and cooling. It comes as no surprise that the monthly bills for heating with heat pumps are not lower than the bills I paid for steam heat. Gas furnaces waste a huge amount of energy, but in our neighborhood, the gas pipelines are already in place and fracking has increased supplies, so the gas heating bills remain fairly cheap. Clearly that means some price breaks must be offered to building owners who can't afford to pay a premium price.

Just today I was reminded that the rebates for homeowners decommissioning gas heat have suddenly stopped. The money for rebates has run out! Stable financing must be added to the scoping plan!