

Dear Climate Action Council,

My name is Francesca Rheannon and I am a resident of East Hampton, New York. I am a member of the East Hampton Town Energy & Sustainability Advisory Committee and co-chair of the Long Island chapter of the Climate Reality Project. I also am a grandmother who cares deeply for my grandchild and her future. As we know, unless we slash carbon emissions steeply now, she won't have a future.

I want to urge decarbonization of our buildings in New York state as rapidly as possible, starting now. We can begin with decarbonizing new construction in the very near future with robust building codes and follow with energy efficiency and electrification retrofits soon after.

Why decarbonize? Let me address one reason here: health. Having a gas stove and/or gas furnace in your house is like having an exhaust pipe spewing high levels of toxic pollution into your home, including particulate matter (PM), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), carbon monoxide (CO), and formaldehyde, that are several times higher than the standards for outside pollution. These are linked to a 42% increase in asthma risk among children, elevated rates of dementia, heart disease, respiratory disease (including heightened risk for severe COVID) and cancer in adults.

Heat pumps, by contrast, are non-polluting, providing increased comfort in winter and summer, and are much more efficient than gas. I know because I have one. The heat pump is so efficient, it uses far less energy than the solar panels on my roof produce. My electric bill is \$16 a month—the cost of the grid connection fee.

For the sake of my granddaughter's health, safety and survival (as well as that of mine and her parents), you must move swiftly to decarbonize buildings in New York State.

Sincerely,

Francesca Rheannon