## Building the Future: Electrification Strategies for Contractors and Architects



Larry Waters – Electrify My Home

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#### **Zoom Orientation**

- Please be sure your full name is displayed
- Please mute upon joining
- Use "Chat" box to share questions or comments
- Under "Participant" select "Raise Hand" to share a question or comment verbally
- The session may be recorded and posted to 3C-REN's on-demand page.
  Feel free to ask questions via the chat and keep video off if you want to remain anonymous in the recording.



### **3C-REN: Tri-County Regional Energy Network**

- Three counties working together to improve energy efficiency in the region
- Services for
  - Building Professionals: industry events, training, and energy code compliance support
  - Households: free and discounted home upgrades
- Funded by ratepayer dollars that 3C-REN returns to the region







#### **3C-REN Programs**

- Energy Code Connect (ECC)
  - Industry Trainings and Regional Forums
  - Energy Code Coach: Title 24 Compliance Support Hotline (805) 220-9991
- Building Performance Training (BPT)
  - Industry Trainings & Certification for current and perspective building professionals
  - Helps workers thrive in an evolving industry
- Home Energy Savings (HES)
  - Flexible Home Energy Upgrades
  - Multifamily (5+ units) & Single Family (up to 4 units)





- Intro to the "Trade Pro" Series
- Electrification market in California and PG&E Service Territory
- Market opportunities
- Whole-home Electrification planning
- Importance of HVAC & Duct design, install, and commissioning

#### **Electrify My Home – Electrification Pioneers**

#### **Our Mission:**

To provide the **most efficient** costeffective electrification solutions to California homeowners, to practice **good stewardship** of the electrical panel, and to **train and influence** other contractors to do the same.



## Electrify My Home Trade Pro Series

- Goal provide a crash course on Electrification
- Let you know how we got here and where we're going
- Point out enormous business opportunities
- Open your eyes into better ways to serve your customers





## #ElectrifyEfficiently Areas of Focus

- Building electrification (single family residential)
- HVAC & water heating (heat pumps)
- **†** Overcoming home electrification barriers
- Approaches that optimize for comfort, efficiency, resilience, and low operational cost
- All audiences will benefit, especially contractors and industry professionals

# Electrification Backdrop





#### Policies & Decisions Leading to This Point <u>Primary Drivers</u> = Health, Air Quality, Climate Change



1963	1968	1970	1976	1988	1990	2005	2006	2016	2018	2018
US clean Air Act Amended 1965/67 1970/77	C.A.R.B. Board Forms	Clean Air Act shifts Fed's role allowing states to limit	A.Q.M.D formed across the state	CA Clean Air Act becomes Law	Clean Air Act amended & admin by US EPA	CA EO S-3-05 sets GHG emission targets	AB 32 CA Global Warming Solutions Act	SB 32 40% below 1990 levels by 2030	Executive Order B-55-18 takes a step further requires carbon neutrality by 2045	SB 1477 Technology & Equipment for Clean Heating (TECH) Initiative

### Fast Forward – It's Happening Again Building Electrification is Here to Stay!



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PRESS RELEASE

# Flames Out By 2030

# 6 Million

# No New Gas

#### **Heat Pumps Installed**

California has a goal of 6 million heat pump installations in less than 7 years

#### **Furnaces & Water Heaters**

The California Air Resources Board has initiated plans to phase out new gas furnace & water heater installs. Starting even earlier in the Bay Area.

#### 70+ Cities Have Adopted Building Codes to Phase Out Gas in New Buildings

1.Carlsbad 2.Berkelev 3.Windsor 4.San Luis Obispo 5.San Mateo 6.Santa Monica 7.Menlo Park 8.San Jose 9.Davis 10.Marin County 11.Mountain View 12.Morgan Hill 13.Palo Alto 14.Alameda 15.Milpitas 16.Santa Rosa 17.Pacifica **18.Mill Valley** 19.Saratoga 20.Brisbane 21.Healdsburg 22.Los Gatos 23.Cupertino 24.San Francisco 25.1 os Altos Hills

26. Campbell 27. San Mateo County 28. Richmond 29. Hayward 30. Santa Cruz 31. Burlingame 32. San Anselmo 33. Piedmont 34. Redwood Citv 35. East Palo Alto 36. Los Altos 37. Millbrae 38. Sunnyvale 39. Ojai 40. Oakland 41. Albany 42. San Carlos 43. Daly City 44. Petaluma 45. South San Francisco 46. Sacramento 47. Santa Barbara 48. Emeryville 49. Fairfax 50. Encinitas

51. Santa Clara 52.Solana Beach 53.Santa Clara County 54.Contra Costa County 55.Half Moon Bay 56.Belmont 57.Hillsborough 58.Hercules 59.Pasadena 60.Martinez 61.San Bruno 62.Livermore 63.Portola Valley 64.Ventura County 65.Pleasanton 66.San Leandro 67.Glendale 68.Dublin 69.Corte Madera 70.Atherton 71.Riverside 72.San Rafael 73.Los Angeles 74.San Pablo 75.Agoura Hills 76.Carpinteria







### Climate Change Isn't #1 Policy Driver for Recently Announced Gas 'Bans'





#### The Most Polluted Cities In America

Cities with the highest year-round levels of particle pollution in the U.S. (2017-2019)\*



 \* Values based on ALA's design value - calculated concentration of a pollutant based on the National Ambient Air Quality standard for PM2.5.
Source: American Lung Association's State of the Air 2021







#### **Clients Clinging to Gas Stoves?** Just Remember, They're Like A Pack of Cigarettes



Slide citation: Sean Armstrong, Redwood Energy - https://www.redwoodenergy.net/

#### Heat pumps outsold gas furnaces again in 2023

Units shipped, per year, in the U.S.



# The Tide is Turning has turned



### Gas is No Longer a Good Investment

Gas cost is going up

- Experts agree could quadruple in next decade
- Can't offset a gas bill with solar
- Remaining gas customers will share the cost of the pipeline maintenance
- Gas heating systems in homes will be a liability when selling
- EPA announced they will no longer label any gas appliances ENERGY STAR Most Efficient

#### Public Sector Investment is Shifting Consumer Perception Public awareness is shifting more every day

https://www.switchison.org/

# THE SWITCH IS ON

#### 2023 Duck Curve



## **The Duck Curve**

- California's Clean Energy Challenge
- A big part of NEM 3.0 justification
- Opportunity for innovation
- Smart electrification can help with Virtual Power Plants
- Any new building or renovation should incorporate grid-friendly approaches





It has happened

100 days of 100% #WindWaterSolar

Sun, July 28, California reached a milestone. The world's 5th-largest economy met 100% of @California\_ISO demand with >100% WWS for the 100th day since March 7. July 27 was day 99 (for 4.9 h)

 $\mathbb{X}$ 

### Wind, Water & Solar Is Starting To Work!

Clean Electricity + Electric Appliances = Success

Strong summer winds helped



California Main Grid Electricity Demand and Wind-Water-Solar (WWS) Supply (GW)

Our Favorite Benefits of Correctly Designed Electrification Upgrades (HVAC Focused)

- 1) Better Comfort
- 2) Quiet
- 3) Enviro. Friendly
- 4) Safer
- 5) Indoor Air Quality





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## **Electrification for Architects & GCs** How Are We Doing w/ New Builds?

## Are New Homes Comfortable?



#### **New Home Comfort?**







#### New 2-Story Home Comfort? With Upstairs/Downstairs Zoning.

72°F

92.5°F

Start Test: (Lower Floor Only Calling)Lower Floor Thermostat68°FUpper Floor Thermostat69°FUpper Floor Ceiling68.4°F

At 15 Minutes: (Lower Floor Only Calling)Lower Floor Thermostat68°FUpper Floor Thermostat69°FUpper Floor Ceiling85.3°F

Test Ended at 53 Minutes: Lower Floor Thermostat Upper Floor Closet





#### **New Home Air Leakage Rates and Path**



Source: California Energy Commission report 500-2012-062 and Rick Chitwood



#### Total New Home Duct Leakage @ 25 Pa



#### The Frequency of Correct Room Air Flow in New Homes...



Supply grill velocity that is correct 25%

Delivering the air to the unoccupied portion of the room

#### **Total Correct**



1%



#### Your Duty To Your Clients

- You are the trusted advisor
- Is it advisable to recommend gas at this point?
- Not all electrification is created equal
- Poor upfront decisions are costly
- Let's break it down PLANNING, DESIGN, EXECUTION

## Electrification for Architects & GCs PHASE 1: PLANNING



## What is Good Electrification?

 Installing the most efficient solutions

- Utilizing existing infrastructure when possible
- Consider all electrification requirements from the start

#### **Electrical Infrastructure = The Brain of Electrification**

1.1





Heat Pumps are the Heart of Electrification



#### The Analogy, Tied Together



- Make sure you use the right heat pump for the right application
- Don't fill your brain (panel) with garbage

#### Panel Planning is Essential To a Successful Electrification Journey

- Make sure an electrical load calculation is done it's not hard
- **†** Assume all homes will eventually have an EV charger
- Talk to customer about electrification plan (which you'll help design) and determine panel needs upfront.
  - DON'T LEAVE THEM WITH SURPRISE PANEL WORK DOWN THE ROAD!
- **†** If there are utility roadblocks, consider a smart panel



#### Example 1 – Richmond, CA

- **Staring Point:** All gas
- 1<sup>st</sup> Project: Heat Pump + Panel
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Project**: Solar/Battery
- **7 3<sup>rd</sup> Project**: Heat Pump Water Heater
- The Issue: multiple panel replacements, oversized HVAC leading to more expensive solar system
- Time Machine: panel assessment with end in mind, downsized inverter to match home's needs, smaller solar array
  - \* ~\$25,000 could have been avoided



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### **PLANNING: Chart a Course & Plan The Budget**

Renovations are great times to electrify everything!



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#### **Common Bay Area Example**





#### **Staging Option 1**



#### **Staging Option 2**



#### **Discuss The Options!**

- Attend our products webinar!
- Ducted vs ductless
- **†** Zoning with two systems
- **†** Ductless options for additions or trouble areas (discuss aesthetic)





# Avoid Value Engineering HVAC

- Include HVAC design early on
- **†** These are **long-term** decisions
- Thermal comfort and health outcomes are equally important as aesthetic comfort
- You may actually save by doing a load calculation to inform smaller equipment
- Use any available incentives (e.g., \$3k CA Energy Smart Homes for new builds) to offset



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## Electrification for Architects & GCs PHASE 2: DESIGN

## Pick Inverter Equipment!









#### **Perform HVAC Load Calculations – Manual J/D/S**



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#### Without a Calculation How Would you Know?

- Same size rooms
- Same size windows
- Same side of the house
- Different requirements





# Equipment Requires Space



- **†** Heat pumps require an **outdoor** & **indoor** unit.
- Ductwork needs space to run and it's not through a vaulted ceiling!
- Must follow codes, which include minimum property line setbacks, distances from utility infrastructure, and other small details.
- Architects leave extra room in mechanical areas. Who knows what future devices your customer may want to add later.
- Water heaters require space for air exchange or an easy path for ducting. HPWHs have larger diameters than gas units typically.

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### **Address The Ductwork**

#### Why Aren't Systems Efficient? DISTRIBUTION, NOT SEER!

- Very low air flow
- Duct leaks: 30% on old systems
- Duct conductive losses
- Size always matters (equipment size, duct size, grille size, etc.)
- Air delivery problems
  - Not enough air
  - Not enough air speed
  - **\*** Air blowing on occupants













### It's OK To Be Creative!

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### Locating the Return Air Filter Grille – For Comfort



- 1. Return location has little impact on delivered comfort
- 2. Location has some impact on equipment efficiency
- 3. Return location has a large impact on static pressure and system air flow



### There's No Way I'm Putting That On My Wall



Provide the second s

**<sup>†</sup>** Go ducted!

# **Electrification for Architects & GCs** PHASE 3: IMPLEMENTATION

Ideas are cheap. Ideas are easy. Ideas are common. Everybody has ideas Ideas are highly, highly overvalued Execution is all that matters

Casey Neistat

( quotefancy

## **Install The Right Registers**

# Can the system mix the room air?





530-477-0695







MY HOME

#### **Stamp Face Registers/Grilles**

- No air stream mixture just adjacent hot spots
- Prevent air mixture stops venturi effect
- Causes hot and cold spots











#### Focus on Envelope (Example: Buried Ductwork)

#### **Example: Calculating the Duct Gain**

- Square footage of the home X 0.4
- T/D of the attic and the cold air in duct 125-55=70 degrees
- Determine the R-value of the ductwork

 $Duct \ Gain = \frac{square \ feet \ \times \ 0.4 \ \times \ temp. \ difference}{R - value \ of \ ductwork}$ 

EXAMPLE  $\rightarrow$  1500 sq ft home, 125 degree attic, 55 degrees supply air, R3 insulation



With R-3 ducts: $\frac{1,500 \times 0.4 \times (125 - 55)}{3} = \frac{42,000}{3} = 14,000 BTU (1.2 TONS) lost to the hot atternative<br/>- Keep in<br/>Building<br/>Envelope!ALTERNATIVE<br/>- Keep in<br/>Building<br/>Envelope!Buried ductwork<br/>(R-30):<math>\frac{1,500 \times 0.4 \times (125 - 55)}{30} = \frac{42,000}{30} = 1,400 BTU (0.1 TONS) lost to the hot atticALTERNATIVE<br/>- Keep in<br/>Building<br/>Envelope!$ 

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## **Commissioning: Static Pressure & Airflow**

#### STATIC:

- High static kills performance
- More energy loss
- + Less delivered capacity
  - Every bit counts on a heat pump

#### AIRFLOW:

- Check with flow hood
- Very important if ducts will not be accessible after renovation!





## **Optimize Duct System**

- □ Keep Ducts as short as possible
- □ Use mechanical elbows at every 90-degree turn
- □ Install a damper in every duct
- □ Be mindful with your installation of the ducts; don't double back off a wye
- Ducts sit flat on the ceiling rafters with the damper handles facing up
- Measure to verify your ducts are not too short
- □ Use mastic on the inside of the duct and slide it over the metal connection
- Secure the duct with flexible plastic duct tape or Panduit strap
- Pull insulation from the duct to cover all metal
- □ Always have the *goal of zero leakage* in mind
- **Tape all the seams on the air handlers to prevent air leakage**



## Takeaway: Well Designed Heat Pump Comfort is Unrivaled

- **† Code is already requiring** electrification and preelectrification.
- However, code does not appear to be driving comfortable outcomes
- **†** For that, you need to work **installers** who:
  - Understand heat pumps
  - Do load calculations
  - Incorporate system design best practices
- \* ^ This company will not be the **lowest bid**. But will provide far **better outcomes**.



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## **Questions? Stay in Touch!**





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## Closing

- Continuing Education Units Available
  - Contact ian.logan@ventura.org for AIA & ICC LUs
- Coming to Your Inbox Soon!
  - Slides & Survey Please Take It and Help Us Out!
- For more information about upcoming events please visit: <u>https://www.3c-ren.org/events</u>



### **Questions about Title 24?**

Energy Code Coaches are local experts who can help answer your Title 24 questions. Coaches have decades of experience in green building and energy efficiency improvements. They can provide citations and offer advice for your project to help your plans and forms earn approval the first time.







Thank you!

For more info: 3c-ren.org

For questions: info@3c-ren.org



TRI-COUNTY REGIONAL ENERGY NETWORK SAN LUIS OBISPO · SANTA BARBARA · VENTURA