

Bellingham's Plan to Eliminate Natural Gas

In May 2018, The Bellingham City Council passed Resolution 2018-06 to create the Climate Action Plan Task Force to develop recommendations to achieve accelerated 100% renewable energy targets.

Through ongoing meetings between Task Force members, where the public is invited to observe, the Task Force is developing recommendations that would impact nearly all homes and businesses in the City of Bellingham. Draft proposals include:

- Mandatory electrification of all gas space and water heating systems upon replacement in residential and commercial buildings by 2040 (or sooner)
- Electrification of all new buildings at time of construction by 2035
- Mandatory generation or purchase of renewable energy to offset 50% of usage
- Weatherization for all homes, rentals, and commercial buildings built before 1990 (with finance/funding pathways under development)

Economic impacts to small business, housing affordability, and homeowners have not been fully assessed. Tax increases are being contemplated as a potential pathway to finance this plan.

All recommendations will be subject to public review, and voted on by the city council as part of the public process.

Your Opinion Matters

The City Council has not reviewed or voted on the Task Force's recommendations, which are now currently being edited into a final report. A Council Meeting is tentatively scheduled for **Dec 9th** to present the plan to the City.

Cascade and other community members have recommended alternative solutions to mandatory electrification, including the integration of renewable natural gas and expansion of our robust conservation efforts. Whether for or against the draft recommendations, it's essential all members of the Bellingham community have the opportunity to be heard.

Questions on next steps and meeting dates can be sent to the City Council at ccmail@cob.org.

The Climate Action Task Force's current draft recommendations can be found at <https://www.cob.org/gov/public/bc/climate>.

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