

EJAC Building Decarbonization Resolution
Assembly Bill 32 Environmental Justice Advisory Committee

Approved at the August 14, 2025, EJAC Public Meeting

Whereas building decarbonization exists in the context of the housing and energy systems; and that significant barriers—many of which are rooted in historically discriminatory practices and disinvestment including high levels of utility debt, rising housing costs, and barriers to high-road employment opportunities further prevent widespread adoption of clean and pollution prevention technologies that can prevent exposure to health harming emissions from gas infrastructure in homes; and

Whereas those barriers continue to dramatically limit California’s environmental justice communities participation in and benefiting from building decarbonization efforts and other clean energy programs; and

Whereas many environmental justice coalitions including the Building Energy Equity and Power (BEEP) Coalition have consistently communicated concerns and recommendations to this Environmental Justice Advisory Committee (EJAC) and California Air Resources Board (CARB) through various avenues, including, but not limited to: [a letter to CARB on June 24, 2022](#) outlining concerns with the zero-emission standards for new space and water heaters rulemaking; and

Whereas these same concerns and recommendations were proposed as part of the 2022 Scoping Plan and 2022 State Implementation Plan; [a letter submitted with key allies to CARB on March 27, 2024](#) clearly outlining barriers to local outreach around building decarbonization, including additional requests for inclusion of additional potentially critical data and metrics in CARB’s equity analysis via [a letter submitted to CARB on May 8, 2024](#); and

Whereas the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) Building Decarbonization Proceeding R.19-01-011, and CARB Zero-Emission Appliance Standards include broad exemptions from beneficial standards and rely on burdensome incentive-based approaches without adequate solutions and funding to ensure frontline participation; and

Whereas these programs and standards have resulted in policies and programs that effectively exclude frontline communities from building decarbonization’s transition, investment, and benefits; and

Whereas inequitable implementation is not only an equity issue, but a public safety concern, as reduced throughput in aging gas infrastructure increases the risks for those remaining on them; and

Whereas if policies and programs included and prioritized frontline community needs and concerns throughout policy and program development, these barriers and inequities would be

identified earlier and either avoided completely, or if unavoidable, mitigation measures developed and incorporated;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that a collaborative process shall support the development and implementation of a comprehensive, statewide strategy for the phased deployment of greenhouse gas emission standards that are accessible to frontline communities. The strategy shall be supported by a harmonized set of market-based and financial incentive mechanisms designed to facilitate equitable compliance and comprehensive statewide greenhouse gas emissions reductions in alignment with the state's climate, air quality, and environmental justice goals.

Be it further resolved that CARB should continue to move upstream to ensure that local communities are involved in community codesign from inception to evaluation of regulatory building decarbonization initiatives, including the provision of financially sustainable funding for local community-based organizations to engage in co-designing building decarbonization strategies and to provide culturally-specific outreach.

Be it further resolved that identification of CARB and Air District resources to support implementation is critical. CARB should identify what state or local resources can be committed to support successful implementation. Ideally this would involve re-examination of existing funding sources (like the [Air Pollution Control Fund](#)) or existing incentive programs to identify opportunities to shift that funding into a direct installation program, either run by CARB or in tandem with other programs (like the [CEC Equitable Building Decarbonization Program](#)). This chapter could also include a review of resources at CPUC, California Energy Commission (CEC), or other federal, state, or local agencies to identify opportunities for resource stacking.

Be it further resolved that CARB must rank target communities and when possible, work with CEC and CPUC staff as well as stakeholders to prioritize target communities by level of need. Top priority should be given to communities with highest housing and energy cost burdens as well as highest pollution burden. CARB should also seek alignment with communities that are listed as “nonattainment areas” in the 2022 State Implementation Plan.

Be it further resolved that CARB collaborate with the CPUC and CEC, shall engage in a transparent, accessible, and inclusive public stakeholder processes—including community and industry stakeholders as well as regular coordination meetings among regulatory agency staff—to ensure alignment, track implementation progress, and adjust strategies as necessary and progress reports should be agendized at Board Meetings and available for public comment and review at least annually.