

15th Annual California Climate & Energy Forum
Tuesday, June 25, 2024 | 2:45 PM – 4:00 PM
Paradise 2

Equity and Community Engagement Considerations for Gas Decommissioning

Michelle Plouse | City of Albany, Community Development Analyst
Allison Lopez | Ava Community Energy, Senior Energy Efficiency Analyst
Neha Bazaj | Gridworks, Director



GRIDWORKS

Project Background

As building electrification advances, gas system costs will be spread across fewer customers and a lower volume of gas sales.

- As a result, remaining customers could face large increases in their gas rates.
- Low-income homeowners, who cannot afford electric alternatives, and renters, who cannot elect these alternatives, will be most vulnerable to these gas rate increases.

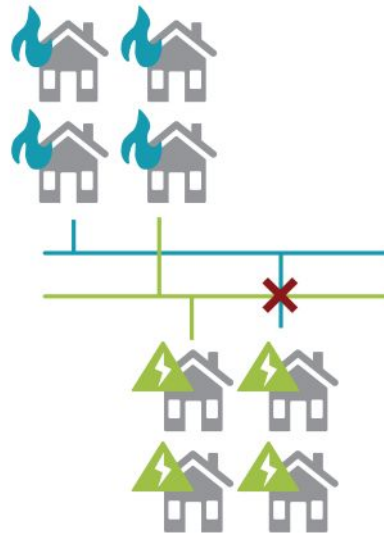
One strategy that may help mitigate gas system cost impacts is **targeted building electrification coupled with strategic gas system decommissioning**.

- This approach could be part of a “managed transition” to reduce gas system spending and manage gas rates.

UNTARGETED ELECTRIFICATION
(No retirements)



TARGETED ELECTRIFICATION
(Targeted retirements)



Mixed fuel house
(Natural gas and electric)

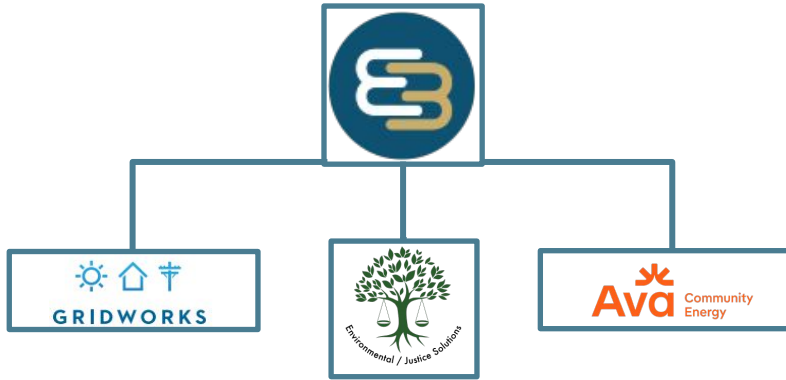


All electric house

Project Overview: CEC Research Grant PIR-20-009

Key Question: How can targeted building electrification paired with tactical gas decommissioning provide net gas system savings while promoting equity and meeting the needs of local communities?

Project Team



Project Partner:
PG&E



Four Key Project Tasks

1. Develop a **Site Selection Framework** to identify candidate sites for targeted electrification and gas decommissioning. Use the framework to identify 3 pilot sites within Ava's service territory.
2. Perform a site-specific **Benefit-Cost Analysis** of targeted electrification and gas decommissioning, considering different perspectives including participants, ratepayers, and society.
3. Engage local communities through **Outreach and Education** to better understand their perspectives and priorities related to targeted electrification and gas decommissioning.
4. Produce a **Deployment Plan** for how projects could be implemented at the pilot sites, considering feedback received through community and stakeholder engagement.



Obligation to serve: *Relevant Public Utilities Code Language*

- Cal. Public Utilities Code § 328(a): “In order to ensure that all core customers of a gas corporation continue to receive safe basic gas service in a competitive market, each existing gas corporation should continue to provide this essential service.”
- Cal. Public Utilities Code § 328.2: “The commission shall require each gas corporation to provide bundled basic gas service to all core customers in its service territory...”
- Cal. Public Utilities Code § 451: “Every public utility shall furnish and maintain such adequate, efficient, just, and reasonable service...”

Community Outreach Approach

Strategy #1: Partner with local CBO

Issued an RFP for CBO partner(s) for up to \$120,000 total

- 0 responses received; CBOs had limited bandwidth or resources to support.

Strategy #2: Partner with existing electrification efforts

Partnered with City of Oakland to host local home energy resource fairs

- Low attendance, may not be the best avenue for informing or getting feedback on electrification.

Strategy #3: Host facilitated focus groups

Partnered with Environmental Justice Solutions to facilitate 3 paid focus groups for residents in the proposed pilot sites.

- Attendance = 44 out of 90

CITY OF OAKLAND

HOME ENERGY RESOURCE FAIR

Are You Ready to Electrify?
Learn about **rebates and other resources** to make your home **safe, healthy, and affordable**. Find out how electrifying can help!

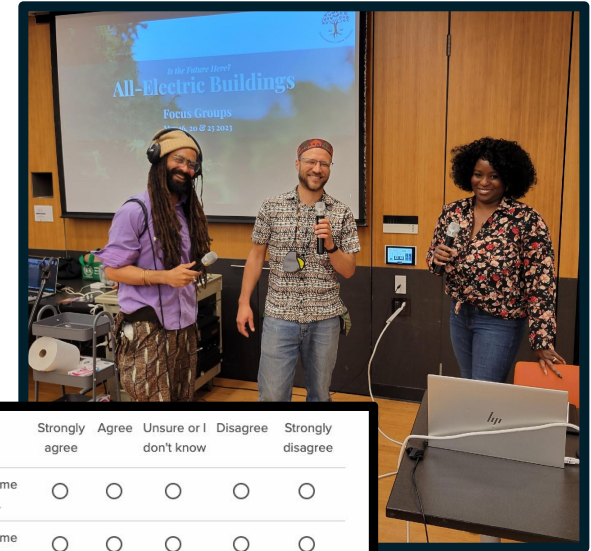
Free food!
Register now with the QR code!

Learn more at oaklandca.gov/electrify

BAYREN **PG&E** **GRID ALTERNATIVES**
EAST BAY COMMUNITY ENERGY **RISING SUN CENTER FOR OPPORTUNITY**

Community Outreach Findings

- Top concerns: upfront cost, lack of familiarity with electric equipment, and the potential increases to electricity bills.
 - Other concerns: grid reliability, renter challenges
- Community prioritizes health-related issues, mold, lead, and/or asbestos, affordability (no upfront costs) and improved health and indoor air quality remediation before electrification
- Most effective messaging:
 - Need for easy to understand, multilingual, digital and printed resources
 - Want proof that this concept has worked in other communities before buying in

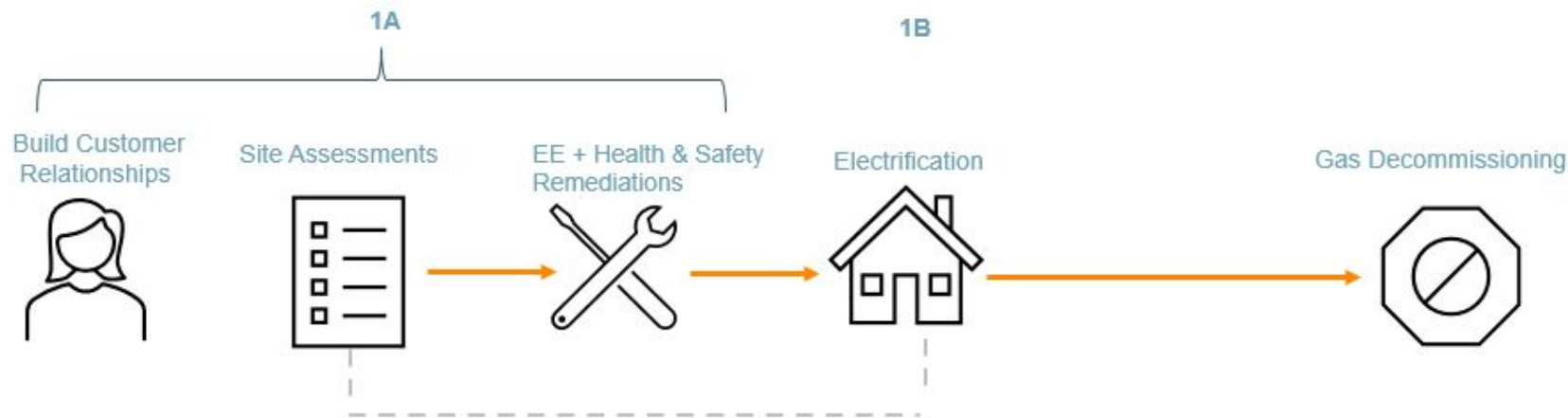


	Strongly agree	Agree	Unsure or I don't know	Disagree	Strongly disagree
I think living in an all-electric home would be safe and comfortable.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I think living in an all-electric home would benefit me.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I have concerns about home electrification.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I have a good understanding of what electrification is.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am concerned about the impacts of climate change.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am concerned about indoor air quality in my home.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Deployment Plan Structure

Phase 1

Phase 2



Assumed pipeline replacement schedule: 10 years