

Neighborhood Gas Infrastructure Removal: Local Government Leadership Under SB 1221

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

Sierra Ballroom B

California's SB 1221 opens the door to neighborhood-scale gas decommissioning as a pathway to cost-effective, equitable building decarbonization, but local governments are on the front lines of making these pilots work. This session will explore how cities, counties, and regional agencies a...

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MODERATOR

Steven Moss, Partner, M.Cubed

- Opening Remarks: Clear that we need to decommission gas system to meet our climate goals
- SB 1221 Timeline
- Application Process & Content
 - Establish priority areas
 - Allocate 30 potential projects around the State
 - Pilot projects must demonstrate compliance with CPUC guidelines
- Cost recovery & Consent
- Policy goals
 - Identify barriers, allow for iterative learnings,
- SB 1221 Maps & Data
 - Each IOU has been required to share data to produce these maps
 - They are not
 - Challenging to link the cost data with the maps for planning purposes

- Best practices
 - This is a technical problem that should use gas asset analysis tool and engineering data to
- Regional Implementation
 - Data Mxing
 - AMBAG signed NDA with PG&E to access granular data on pipeline replacements. Census tracts have very limited use cases. The segments of possible projects are in 100-1000 foot segments
 - Used Xerohome tool to model the impact of different measure on every home in region - model the cost to replace a water heater
 - Even with support on data, and even knowing which neighborhoods to focus on, CBOs and local governments do not have funding to conduct outreach given this highly uncertain environment
 - There is a LOT of outreach that would need to happen by Dec 15th to propose a project.
- Local Government Modeling and future scaling
 - Applied for grant to run Bay Area Clean Homes Initiative - holistic neighborhood decarbonization homes retrofits for low-income and frontline communities - would include remediation
 - Got commitments from a variety of partners
 - Project was not awarded
 - Process provided lessons learned
 - Identified potential funding sources
 - BayREN's residential programs, partner fund sources, PG&E (through avoided gas system costs), other grant opportunities
- Where is your community today?
 - Significant resistant - 1
 - Actively mapped - 6
 - Early conversations 20
 - Haven't started discussions - 15
 - Gas company has blocked progress - 8

- Q&A

- *Missed a few questions and answers*
- Throwing out an idea: The framing needs to be that the gas pipeline system is going to end at some point. If we're going to withdraw from the system, what do we do? How do we behave? What
 - Increase grid capacity so we can electrify.
 - You can massively scale up communication on electrification so folks are scared of electrifying.
 - As part of these pilots, if they install behind the meter assets, should they be able to reap the cost benefits of the installs? This would incentivize the IOUs to make these investments
 - Local governments need to be involved in these pilots! Work through your REN, through your CCA, through LGSEC to advocate for decommissioning. If we leave it to the utilities, it will be a different product. Local governments have the capacity to play a strong role
 - We should be internally consistent - we should not be installing any new gas appliances; we need to understand why pipelines are being replaced - is it because the gas company is expanding pipeline or because it is a safety issue? We shouldn't be doing any more expansion.
- How can we communicate successful models?
 - Through the coalitions
- Neighborhoods do not need to be contiguous
- Workforce is an entirely different panel discussion
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