



Commissioner Andrew McAllister
California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Comments on 01/12/23 Staff Workshop: CalSHAPE Ventilation Program HVAC Upgrade and Repair Grants

Dear Commissioner McAllister:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we thank the California Energy Commission (CEC) for the opportunity to comment on the Staff Workshop on the CalSHAPE Ventilation Program HVAC Upgrade and Repair Grants. We greatly appreciate the CEC hosting a workshop on this topic and for its leadership in accelerating our clean energy goals. **We write in strong support of the CEC proposal that CalSHAPE HVAC Upgrade and Repair Grants be used for only the installation of zero emission equipment and prioritize funding for schools in underserved and environmental justice communities, near busy roadways, and in communities with poor air quality.** And more specifically, we support proposal Option 1 (slide 23): HVAC system replacements with gas equipment should not be eligible for a grant award.

Residential and commercial buildings account for a quarter of the state's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and heat pumps are a critical enabling technology for decarbonizing our buildings. As part of California's decarbonization vision, the state set a goal of installing at least 6 million heat pumps by 2030. This target will require the rapid deployment of heat pumps to decarbonize our building sector, including in our K-12 schools.

California's 10,000 K-12 schools – more than 730 million square feet of buildings on nearly 125,000 acres of land – comprise one of California's largest sectors of public infrastructure, representing billions of dollars of state and local investment. Given that some facility investments have lifespans of more than 30 years, we must ensure that our current actions accelerate progress toward our long-term carbon neutrality goals. It is vital that the state supports vulnerable communities and critical community buildings, such as schools, in becoming independent from the aging gas system. To ensure an equitable zero-emission transition, it is critical to prioritize funding in low-income, environmental justice communities.

Shifting CalSHAPE's remaining funds to zero emission infrastructure will also improve the efficiency and health of these facilities. Upgrades to school facilities can help remedy air quality issues, improve comfort and health conditions, support better student learning, and provide reductions in school energy bills. In particular, clean energy HVAC systems are integral to learning and health in schools by providing comfortable temperatures with ventilation and filtration for good indoor air quality (IAQ).

We thank the CEC for its diligent efforts on progressing our clean energy goals and heat pump deployment. We look forward to continued engagement with the CEC as the state looks to decarbonize its building stock to achieve its climate goals.

Sincerely,

Merrian Borgeson
CA Director, Climate and Clean Energy
NRDC

Michael Colvin
Director, California Energy Program
Environmental Defense Fund

Sean Armstrong
Managing Principal
Redwood Energy

Leslie Alden
Executive Director
Drawdown Bay Area

Emma Hines
Health & Air Quality Associate
RMI

Sven Thesen
Founder, BeniSol, LLC
Dad with kids in public school

Kate Kramer, MD
Co-Founder
Project Green Home
Mom & MD with kids in public school

Jonathan Klein
Co-Founder
UndauntedK12
California parent

Reilly Loveland
Senior Project Manager
New Buildings Institute

Rick Brown, PhD
Chair of the Board
TerraVerde Energy

Ann Feeney
Building Electrification co-chair
San Diego 350

Dr. Leah Stokes
Associate Professor
The 2035 Initiative, UC Santa Barbara
California parent

Ari Matusiak
CEO
Rewiring America
California parent

Alvin Hong Lee
Executive Director
GENup (Generation Up)
Youth Leader

Robert Gould, MD
President, San Francisco Bay Physicians for Social Responsibility
California grandparent

Arnold Sowell, Jr.
Executive Director,
NextGen California

Matt Vespa
Senior Attorney
Earthjustice

Cyane Dandridge
Founder and Executive Director
SEI: Buildings Leaders for a Resilient World

Kirk Anne Taylor
Executive Director
Climate Action Pathways for Schools

Sakereh Carter
Senior Policy Advocate
Sierra Club California

Suzanne Hume
Educational Director & Founder
CleanEarth4Kids.org