



A LATE AFTERNOON AT A RICHMOND PUBLIC SCHOOL

Building Electrification

In line with Sierra Club's goals of promoting a clean energy future rooted in equity and sustainability, our Building Electrification campaign emphasizes the imperative role that net zero schools play in the fight against the climate crisis. Our Building Electrification campaign bolsters the state's commitment to a 100% renewable energy future by complementing a central aim of the Virginia Clean Economy Act (VCEA), decarbonizing Virginia's electricity grid by 2045. A monumental state that is already leading effective climate policy, Virginia has the potential to be one of the nation's leading figures in the great energy transition.

Mission Statement

Our core strategy lies in mobilizing clean energy leaders, professionals, and electrification advocates alike to carry out grassroots activism. Our electrification advocacy initiatives are rooted in the shared goals of equitable community engagement, practical relationship building, and an acknowledgement that marginalized communities of color are at the forefront of the climate crisis. In order to withstand and mitigate the impacts that this disastrous phenomenon has brought to present society, we must rapidly integrate our global economy into the clean energy transition by promoting energy equity and efficiency. In a time of widespread climate consciousness, we must act as agents for change who will drive an aggressive energy transition to all- electric buildings.

What is Building Electrification?

The term Building Electrification refers to the shift away from fossil fuel powered electricity for heating, cooling, and cooking, in a variety of buildings, to cleaner forms of energy.

Why is Building Electrification necessary?

By shifting traditional forms of electrification to adopt renewable technologies, we can lower energy consumption, emphasize environmental stewardship in communities, and encourage programming that promotes sustainable development in a major emissions sector of our nation.

Data + Statistics

Electrification reduces GHGs emissions in all utility territories today. For the average house using a gas water heater and a gas furnace, electrification today can cut related household emissions nearly 50-75%.

In 2021, The EIA estimates that natural gas accounted for ~58% of Virginia's utility-scale electricity net generation, meaning that over half of our state's electricity derives from natural gas- fired power plants.

In Virginia, Commercial and Residential Buildings come in second and third place for energy consumption by end use sector.

What are the key benefits of Building Electrification?

Community

Communities who invest in BE technologies have lower monthly utility bills and maintenance costs.

Cost

BE is cost effective. An electric heat pump can replace an air conditioning unit and a furnace- reducing capital costs for two separate pieces of equipment.

Living

Improves living conditions by reducing air pollutants(carbon monoxide, formaldehyde, etc) that are emitted by gas appliances.

Get Involved

To foster a future rooted in energy efficient electrification implementation for all, we need your help. Be a part of the clean energy transition and support the Virginia Chapter's efforts in expanding Building Electrification initiatives in schools. To find out more information and to get involved, please reach out to McKenna Dunbar(mckenna.dunbar@sierraclub.org) who acts as the Building Electrification Lead.

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