# **ALL-ELECTRIC HOMES** good for your health, your wallet, and your planet

WHY you should go electric (see reverse for HOW):

- Energy Efficient: modern electric appliances are 3–5 times as efficient as their gas counterparts
- Reduce Energy Bills: appliances that use less energy could save you nearly \$500 a year
- Improve Indoor Air Quality & Safety: gas appliances create dangerous air pollutants that can cause asthma and other respiratory conditions and are a significant source of home fires
- Be More Resilient: have power during outages and be self-reliant when it matters
- Help the Environment: methane, the key component in "natural gas," is a potent greenhouse gas that's 80+ times more powerful than carbon dioxide. Reduce your climate impact by decarbonizing your energy: eliminating natural gas (and gasoline) altogether.
- Get Ahead of Future Requirements: The Bay Area air district (BAAQMD) has already adopted rules to ban the sale of water heaters (2027) and furnaces (2029) that use natural gas. State regulations are also being considered and further restrictions are likely—continued use of fossil fuels is not compatible with climate goals. Electrify when you are already replacing equipment and avoid spending twice!



# HOW TO GO ELECTRIC

Consider where you're starting. New homes or significant renovations can save money by avoiding new gas lines and piping. For existing homes: What gas equipment do you have? How old is it? It's most cost-effective to convert when you need to replace equipment anyway. but it can take time to switch, so don't wait until your existing units die.
or you may get stuck with whatever "is on the truck". A BayREN Home Energy Advisor or whole-home electrification consultant is a good place to start. <u>bayren.org/single-family-homeowners/contact-home-energy-advisor</u>

**Efficiency First!** Sealing air leaks, high levels of insulation, and energy-efficient windows will improve comfort and ensure that the energy (and money) that goes into heating or cooling indoor air stays where you want it. The most cost-effective and environmentally-friendly energy is the energy you don't need to use!

**Consider your capacity.** Electrical capacity that is. Some homes, especially older ones, may have limited panel space. In some cases, upgrades may be needed, but by planning ahead, you may be able to avoid costly and time-consuming upgrades through strategies such as the Watt Diet, circuit splitters, or smart panels. If an upgrade is needed, talk to your electrician to ensure it will allow for future electrification of all end uses, including potentially solar, batteries and EV charging. Learn more at <u>redwoodenergy.net/watt-diet-calculator</u>

#### Install Clean All-Electric Appliances.

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- Pre-wire in advance where needed if you aren't ready to retire your functioning gas equipment early.
- Induction Stoves are safer and healthier to use, provide great control and have easy-to-clean surfaces.
- Heat Pump Water Heaters pull heat from the air to heat water. In addition to being extremely efficient, they can provide "demand response" by pre-heating ahead of peak hours or grid events.
- Heat Pump HVAC Systems also work by moving heat and provide both heating and cooling in one efficient device. If you are considering installing or replacing an air conditioner, look for a heat pump instead!
- **Heat Pump Dryers** are the next best choice after a clothesline (which uses no energy!). Numerous models are on the market, and can often be installed just as easily as their gas counterparts.

## Install Clean Energy Features.

- **Electric Vehicles** are clean, fun to drive, and avoid expensive trips to the gas station. Home charging is convenient and inexpensive. Walk, bike, take transit or carpool as much as possible, and go EV for the rest.
- **Rooftop Solar Panels** allow your home to be self-powered. They are connected to the electric grid, allowing excess energy to be exported to others and grid power to be used when the sun isn't shining. It's best to take this step after efficiency and electrification to ensure your system is sized appropriately.
- **Battery Storage Systems** can be charged with excess solar production or from the grid during off-peak times and used at peak hours when electricity is more expensive or to provide resiliency during power outages.

## Help is Available.

- Regional rebates & incentives: <u>peninsulacleanenergy.com/residential-programs</u> or <u>bayren.org</u>
- Switch Is On is an excellent statewide resource. You can learn about technologies and equipment, search for local incentives, and find a contractor all in one stop: <u>switchison.org</u>
- More Help is Coming through the federal Inflation Reduction Act. Learn what you can save now and might be eligible for later: <u>rewiringamerica.org/app/ira-calculator</u>
- Comprehensive Guide for all-electric home retrofits from Redwood Energy: tinyurl.com/electric-home-retrofit



Have more questions? We can help! bbep@brisbaneca.org