

SUPPORT THE CLEAN & HEALTHY BUILDINGS ACT

The Problem

To meet our state's climate goals, we must cut emissions from buildings.

Reducing buildings emissions is important for and beneficial to our state's climate, as well as the individual health and finances of every Illinoisan.

Gas is Expensive.

- Illinois gas utilities have some of the highest fixed charges in the Midwest, and yet utilities are still actively pursuing rate hikes.
- Illinois leads the nation in shut offs, due to high gas costs, and customers falling behind on their gas bills.

Negative Health Impacts.

- Burning fossil fuels in our homes is extremely detrimental to our health. Appliances that run on fossil fuels, such as gas stoves, water heaters, and space heaters, release carbon monoxide, particulate matter, cancer-causing Benzene and other toxic chemicals into the air we breathe every day.
- According to a recent study, 20% of Illinois child asthma cases are attributable to gas stove usage.

Buildings are fossil fuel guzzlers that are bad for our climate.

- Around 20% of Illinois GHG emissions come from buildings, and in urban areas this percentage is even higher. For example, in Chicago, buildings account for nearly 70% of all emissions.





The Solution: The Clean and Healthy Buildings Act

To meet our climate goals and make Illinoisans healthier, we need to reduce hazardous emissions in our homes and businesses. This means setting ambitious goals, doubling down on energy efficiency, and modernizing the way we think about our different heating options. The Clean and Healthy Buildings Act accomplishes this objective by implementing:

Clean Heat Standard

- Requires gas utilities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) steadily, reaching zero emissions by 2050.

Clean Heat Pathway Study

- Requires the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) to convene a working group that maps out the most affordable strategies to reach the Clean Heat Standard, especially for low-income communities.

Gas Planning

- Modernize and align gas system investments and programs with the Clean Heat Standard.

Gas Energy Efficiency Standards

- Update gas energy efficiency standards to help people lower their gas bills and keep their homes more comfortable while also reducing pollution.

State Navigator Program

- Creation of a statewide one-stop-shop program, to provide whole home decarbonization, weatherization, and health and safety upgrades services including technical assistance, education, contractor identification, and financing/funding.

Consumer Protections

- Embed affordability into ratemaking and all ICC decision-making processes for gas and electric utilities including a low-income discount rate.

New Construction

- Requires new buildings to meet their needs through all-electric technologies.