



*Mothers and allies mobilizing for
a livable climate for all children*

February 16, 2022

Re: Atherton Reach Code, Item 19

Attn: Atherton Councilmembers, City Clerk & City Manager

Thank you for your work on the Electric Reach Code for Atherton. [Mothers Out Front Silicon Valley](#) urges the Town of Atherton to **adopt an All-Electric Reach Code for all new building types including ADUs and remove the exemption for gas cooking and fireplaces.**

The health impacts of indoor gas appliances are well documented in recent studies. The harmful effects of gas stoves are not commonly known and are extremely concerning.

- A study Mothers Out Front co-published with PSR, RMI and the Sierra Club on the [Health Effects of Gas Stove Pollution](#) demonstrates that gas stoves pollute indoor air with nitrogen dioxide and other toxins, elevating risks of asthma and other respiratory diseases. The pollutants exceeded the allowable limits for outdoor use in some cases.
- A new [Bay Area Air Quality Management District Study](#) finds that eliminating combustion emissions from Natural Gas space and water heating appliances would avoid up to 89 local deaths annually.
- A recent [Stanford University study](#) found that methane gas is continuously leaking from gas stoves.

I was a gas stove owner and enthusiast, but after purchasing an induction stove I absolutely love it! The induction stove offers the same benefits as gas stoves such as quick responsiveness and quick heating without the pollution and safety risks. There are many notable chefs demonstrating cooking on induction stoves. One such is [this video](#) featuring professional chef Rachelle Boucher using an induction stove. My classic iron pans work wonderfully on my induction stove as well as many other types of high end cookware such as carbon steel and magnetic stainless steel. The power boil takes just seconds to boil water and since the surface doesn't get very hot, my 'tween' son can safely use our induction stove.

Reach codes are at their most effective when we can eliminate ALL new gas line infrastructure to areas of new construction. In eliminating the cost of this outdated infrastructure, we also eliminate the fracking and methane leaks associated with fossil gas extraction and transport as well as safety hazards due to leaks and pipeline explosions. Heating through electric heat pump appliances is also much more efficient and much warmer than gas fireplaces.

Gas appliances generally do not support power outage-resilience, as most modern gas equipment depends on electricity to start and operate. In some emergencies, such as earthquakes, gas supply is also shut off and typically takes much longer to restore than electricity. Electrification with battery and solar backup via microgrid is the best approach.

Knowing how detrimental gas is to our health **it makes no sense to continue to build new buildings with any outdated gas infrastructure.** We must re-align with the changing world. Electric Reach Codes that have already been passed in a whopping 27 Bay Area cities, propelling a shift in available equipment and qualified installers.

Thank you for considering a **fully electric Reach Code for all new residences and ADU buildings with no exemptions for cooking or fireplaces.** Please also make your code **strong with no automatic exemptions** for special cases such as fuel cells or bloom boxes, which are marketed as 'green' but use power that is derived from fracked gas. The energy they provide dramatically increases emissions since the fuel cells are always on and do not use clean electricity offered by our local providers. **Exemptions should have to be applied for vs being automatic.**

Thank you for your time and for this important meeting. We need to be able to look toward the future knowing we've done everything in our power to preserve a livable planet for all children.

Thank you,

Stephanie Morris
Leadership Team
Mothers Out Front Silicon Valley