

The Future of Clean Heat – Priority Provisions

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No path to the 2050 net-zero emissions mandate can allow gas companies to continue business as usual: spending more than \$800 million a year replacing leak-prone pipes.

Transition Off Gas to a Future of Clean Heat

- Empower the DPU to regulate gas companies as renewable thermal energy companies.
 - Require gas companies create plans to transition gas customers to non-emitting renewable networked geothermal energy using ground source heat pumps, or where not feasible, air source heat pumps.
1. Require gas companies to develop plans, updated annually, that **detail how and where gas customers will be transitioned** to non-emitting renewable thermal energy.
 2. Authorize gas companies to **install non-emitting renewable thermal energy infrastructure** using their skilled workforce and their existing grants of location in the public rights of way.
 3. Allow gas companies to meet their **obligation to serve** by providing customers with non-combusting renewable thermal energy (no longer limited to selling gas).
 4. Require gas companies to issue competitive requests for proposals for **non-gas pipe alternatives** instead of replacing or expanding the gas distribution system.
 5. Require the DPU to set performance-based financial incentives for gas companies to **reduce miles of gas infrastructure** and increase non-emitting renewable infrastructure.
 6. Require gas companies' GSEP plans to **increase the annual percentage of gas customers connected to non-emitting renewable thermal energy** until 100% of customers are connected, while maintaining affordability for customers and meeting emissions reduction mandates.
 7. Establish a **combined rate base** of geothermal customers and gas customers to protect remaining gas customers from shouldering a disproportionate burden of energy transition.
 8. Require gas companies' plans for installing non-combusting renewable thermal infrastructure to include **plans for training and retaining their workers** with the same wages and benefits.
 9. **Eliminate cost recovery and depreciation** for gas pipeline infrastructure after January 1, 2050.
 10. Require the DPU to develop **standards for determining whether to repair or replace** leak-prone infrastructure, and to deny cost recovery if gas companies do not follow the standards.
 11. Require gas companies, where feasible, 1) to use **advanced leak repair** technology, 2) to replace leak-prone pipe with non-emitting **renewable thermal energy infrastructure**, or 3) to **decommission gas pipes** through replacing gas infrastructure with utility-scale non-emitting renewable thermal energy infrastructure or non-combusting electric heat pumps.
 12. **Repeal the provision** authorizing gas companies to install gas service line extensions to new customers, found in outside Section 3 of Chapter 149 of The Acts of 2014, An Act Relative to Natural Gas Leaks.
 13. Expand existing law to prohibit use of ratepayer funds for **political and promotional advertising**.
 14. **Restrict the use of renewable natural gas and hydrogen** for use on-site in hard-to-decarbonize industrial processes.