

**CITY OF SEBASTOPOL
CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE
WORKING GROUP AGENDA ITEM**

Meeting September 14, 2022

To: Climate Action Committee

From: Energy Working Group

Subject: Electrification Survey

Recommendation: The Climate Action Committee recommends that Sebastopol issues a public electrification survey that explores residents' views and understanding about electrification options. The survey published and accessible through the City's electronic newsletter and other appropriate means of communicating with Sebastopol citizens.

Funding: Funding Needs: Not Determined/NA__ (TBD by staff)

Funding Source(s): Not Determined/NA

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:

People are generally aware of solar, weatherization, insulation and electric vehicles. It is very difficult to know how much public awareness there is about the newer highly efficient electric appliances that are available and that dramatically lower GreenHouse Gas (GHG) emissions in homes and businesses.

Methane (natural gas) acts as a short term GHG. Though over a 100 year period, it is 34 times more impactful than CO₂, it is over the short term where it participates most heavily to climate change. Over a 2 year horizon, methane is 120 times stronger as a GHG than CO₂.

Studies have shown that the pipelines that deliver methane to buildings as well as the appliances that use it do leak considerably. The EPA estimates at wells 3.7% of the gas is emitted to the atmosphere. Recent reports estimate a further 1.3% is emitted from stove tops even when they are turned off representing a health risk.

GOALS:

We will measure public awareness and interest in the new highly efficient electric appliances. The survey will also help capture the awareness of the available electrification incentives and the barriers to installation.

The electrification survey will help the Climate Action Committee make informed recommendations to the city as to how to increase residential electrification. With the results of the survey, we will be able to target our education efforts and design programs to help residents in their electrification efforts.

The following Goals of the Sebastopol General Plan are potentially supported by getting the results of this survey.

COS1: Make Proactive, Forward-Thinking Environmental Protection and Resource Management the Cornerstone of Sebastopol's Identity

COS7: Improve Air Quality in Sebastopol and Reduce Air Quality Impacts from Future Development

COS8: Reduce Emissions of Greenhouse Gasses from City Operations and Community Sources

COS9: Promote Conservation of Energy and Other Natural Resources

The following Goals of the Sebastopol Climate Action Framework are potentially supported by getting the results of this survey:

BE1. Reduce GHG emissions from buildings and support better community health by electrifying existing structures.

BE2. Support low-income residents, renters, and others who face barriers to electrification or energy efficiency upgrades.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

As of the writing of this staff report, the City has not received any public comment. However, staff anticipates receiving public comment from interested parties following the publication and distribution of this staff report. Such comments will be provided to the City Council as supplemental materials before or at the meeting. In addition, public comments may be offered during the public comment portion of the agenda item.

PUBLIC NOTICE:

This item was noticed in accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act and was available for public viewing and review at least 72 hours prior to the scheduled meeting date.

FUNDING NEEDS:

[Staff to provide costs]

RECOMMENDATION:

[Staff to provide recommendation]

ATTACHMENT(S):

- SCAC - Electrification Survey Equity Matrix
- Sebastopol Electrification Survey

Sebastopol Climate Action Committee Equity Evaluation Matrix

Project/Program/Policy: Electrification Survey

Working Group/Lead Members: Energy Group

Timeline Summary: Once approved the survey will be posted within 2 months

Who might be affected by this project?*	Potential benefits of project	Potential harms of project	How has this affected group been involved in designing this project?	How has this community been able to provide feedback regarding this project?	Comments/analysis/plans
Anyone in Seb.	Save on energy bills, reduce natural gas dangers and health risks, less CO2 emissions, reduce home operating costs		May need to reach out to make sure many demographics are represented in the survey results	Survey is to get feedback on the roadblocks to elecification	Have survey in Spanish too

*Please review this list when discerning potential effects of projects (but also include any other groups not listed here): local tribes/indigenous groups, BIPOC persons, non-English speakers, undocumented persons, renters, unhoused persons, labor groups, youth, Latinx persons. ADD LINES TO TABLE AS NEEDED.

Are fiscal implications regressive or progressive in nature? ?	Analysis: Cost of survey unknown at this time	Commentary: Primarily volunteer effort
---	--	---

<p>Will this project/program/policy serve a predominantly low-income or minority neighborhood?</p> <p>no</p>	<p>Analysis:</p>	<p>Commentary:</p>
--	------------------	--------------------

Sebastopol Electrification Survey

The City of Sebastopol's Climate Action Committee is conducting a survey to learn more about resident's views and needs about switching from gas to electric in their homes. We are pursuing this with the intention of reducing greenhouse gasses and improving air quality. Your input will help guide the City efforts on this issue.

1. Are you aware that highly efficient electric heat pump options are available for water heating and space heating/cooling?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	No

2. Are you aware of highly efficient induction cook top stoves?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	No

3. Are you aware of rebates and incentives for these energy efficient products?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	No

4. Have you been considering any changes in your home to shift from natural gas to electric?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	No

5. If so, what kind of obstacles have you encountered? (Check all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/>	It's too confusing.
<input type="checkbox"/>	It's too expensive.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I may not have enough electric amperage going to my home.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I can't find a contractor.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I don't like the electric options (please explain)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (please explain).

Explanation

--

6. Would you like to see the City have an assistance program to help homeowners and tenants navigate the process of shifting from gas to electric in their homes?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	No

7. (If yes) What kind of assistance would be the most helpful to you?

--

8. Do you rent or own your home?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Renter
<input type="checkbox"/>	Homeowner

9. Do you live within the 95472 zip code?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	No

10. Are you considering adding or replacing any of the following

<input type="checkbox"/>	Water heater
<input type="checkbox"/>	Space heater/furnace
<input type="checkbox"/>	Air conditioner
<input type="checkbox"/>	Stove/oven
<input type="checkbox"/>	Clothes dryer
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rooftop solar
<input type="checkbox"/>	Battery storage
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (please explain).

Explanation

--

11. If you would like to get the results of the survey sent to you, or would like to get more information on electrification, please enter your email address.

--