PROHIBITING NATURAL GAS INFRASTRUCTURE IN NEW BUILDINGS

Guidance for Architects, Engineers, and Builders

On July 27th 2021, Santa Barbara City Council adopted Ordinance 6014 that prohibits the installation of natural gas infrastructure in new buildings.

WHERE: Any building located within city limits, both municipal and private.

WHEN: Permit application submitted after **4:30pm December 22, 2021**. The ordinance reads this goes into effect for applications submitted after **December 31st 2021**; however, the City and City’s building permit portal, ACA, will be closed for business Dec. 24th - Jan 2nd.

WHAT: New buildings which are defined, in general, as a completely new building, a complete demolish and rebuild, or removing more than 75% of any two of the following:

- **Structural roof or roof framing**
- **Structural exterior walls (or are no longer an integral structural component)**
- **Foundation (or are no longer an integral structural component)**

**Accessory Dwelling Units:** ADUs that are completely new buildings must be all-electric. ADUs that are completely within or are an addition to an existing building do not have to comply with the ordinance, unless the existing building meets two or more of the criteria listed above.

**Additions:** Additions to an existing structure do not have to comply unless the existing building meets two or more of the criteria listed above.

**EXEMPTIONS**

Applicants may apply for several exemptions, including:

- Cooking appliances in commercial kitchens
- Medical building laboratory equipment or clean-rooms
- When in the public interest after considering:
  - Availability of alternative technologies or systems which do not use natural gas
  - Any other impacts on the health, safety, or welfare of the public

**What is typically NOT considered an exemption?**

Any of the following natural gas connections/uses:

- Space heating (interior or exterior)
- Domestic water heating
- Residential pool or spa heating
- Fire pit, BBQ, or fireplace (interior or exterior)
- Residential cooking appliances or equipment
- Clothes Dryer

To read this ordinance and learn more visit: https://sustainability.santabarbaraca.gov/climate-actions/

For any questions, please contact:
Kristian Hoffland, Energy & Climate Division
khoffland@santabarbaraca.gov
(805) 564-5595