

Jennifer Elwell

From: Richard Gray <[REDACTED]>
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To: Jennifer Elwell
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Hi Jennifer,

Thanks for your excellent presentation at the Stationary Source Committee meeting today. As you heard from the public there is a feeling of urgency to accelerate implement these regulations to protect health from indoor NOx emissions and to end methane as a space and water heating source for climate protection.

While rule making is your primary focus, the presentation by Liz, which followed yours, made the point that rules are only one of the tools in the District's toolbox. I certainly hope that you will also focus other emission reduction strategies including educating the public and Bay Area contractors who install heating appliances, making them aware of the health, safety and long term cost benefits of heat pump technology.

As a homeowner recently seeking to replace my propane heating system and water heater with zero emission appliances I was shocked to find that my local Marin plumbing and HVAC contractors had little information to share with me about these new technologies and were quite prepared to recommend staying with the cheapest and easiest for them to install. I ended up going directly to a contractor who specializes in heat pumps.

Since contractors are the first point of contact for homeowners seeking to replace these systems, it seems to me that the District could help accelerate uptake of heat pump systems by informing or training these contractors as advocates of this new technology.

I picture the District designing a program to pay or otherwise incentivize contractors, union and trade association members to attend a seminar that would give them adequate information to make the case to their clients to encourage the switch to electric. And there is no reason why the District couldn't implement this training program as soon as possible.

I agree with the District's priority on seeking solutions that primarily benefit low income communities. However, as Director Gioia pointed out today, there are plenty of middle income homeowners who are faced with appliance replacement. If all the contractors out there became heat-pump savvy advocates this would certainly accelerate uptake of heat pumps Bay Area wide.

I hope this helps.

Richard