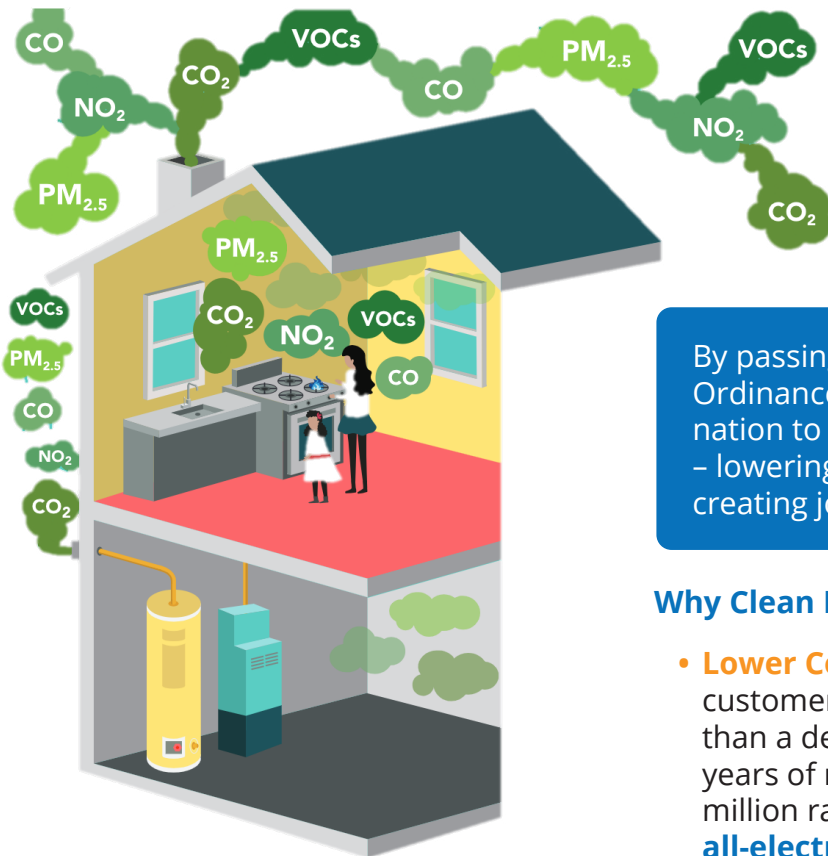


Chicago Needs the Clean and Affordable Buildings Ordinance



By passing the Clean and Affordable Buildings Ordinance, Chicago will join cities around the nation to require all new buildings to be all-electric – lowering utility costs, improving public health, creating jobs, and reducing pollution.

Why Clean Buildings - The Benefits

- **Lower Costs:** In recent winters, Chicago gas customers paid the highest heating prices in more than a decade, and Peoples Gas, after six consecutive years of record profits, won a record-breaking \$300 million rate hike in 2023. An NRDC study showed that **all-electric new construction can save Chicagoans nearly \$1,000 every year.**
- **Protect Our Health:** Burning fossil fuels like methane gas in our homes produces dangerous air pollutants such as carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, fine particulate matter, cancer-causing benzene, and more. This endangers everyone, but is particularly harmful to children and Chicago's most vulnerable communities.
- **Protect Our Climate:** Fossil fuel use in commercial and residential buildings accounts for more than two-thirds of Chicago's climate pollution.
- **Create Jobs:** Transitioning to clean, efficient homes and buildings will create thousands more good-paying union jobs. Chicago already employs **three times more workers** in clean building jobs compared to fossil fuel building jobs.

CHICAGO SUN★TIMES

Gas bills hit Chicagoans hard

Peoples Gas, despite record profits, has the most customers struggling to pay their bills of any Chicago-area utility, with the South Side and West Side hit hardest.

What Does the Clean and Affordable Buildings Ordinance Do?

- Requires all **new** buildings to use heating, cooling, water heating, cooking, and clothes drying appliances that rely solely on efficient electricity.
- Applies to commercial and residential buildings, and building additions over 10,000 sq ft.
- Exemptions include commercial cooking, emergency backup power, industrial production, wood fireplaces, hospitals, and laboratories.
- Goes into effect one year from passage, in alignment with the City's 3-year building code cycle.

CHICAGO SUN★TIMES

Go electric in new Chicago buildings, and nix gas stoves and heat

By Ald. William Hall and Ald. Timmy Knudsen | Oct 3, 2023

"Without a managed transition away from gas, Chicago could see a future where the North Side and upper-income communities downtown move away from gas, leaving the rest of the city with the financial burden of replacing aging gas pipes while subjecting residents to more cancer-causing benzene from gas stoves.

This unmanaged, unfair transition happened when Chicagoans moved away from burning coal in their homes in the 1940s, when South Side residents choked on smoke and paid higher bills than those who moved to gas. Now, we must transition from expensive gas to cleaner, cheaper all-electric homes, but this time we must do so in a smart and equitable way.

CABO is the way."

Every day, Chicagoans are struggling to pay their gas bills and risk harmful health effects in their homes due to unhealthy indoor air quality. We must wean off our reliance on fossil fuels, stop the expansion of the fossil fuel system, and move toward a healthier and more affordable future.

The Illinois Clean Jobs Coalition urges the City Council to take immediate action to pass the Clean and Affordable Buildings Ordinance.

The Illinois Clean Jobs Coalition (ICJC) is made up of hundreds of environmental advocacy organizations, businesses, community leaders, consumer advocates, environmental justice groups, and faith-based and student organizations working together to improve public health and the environment, protect consumers, and create equitable, clean jobs across the state. After more than three years of community organizing and policy leadership, in 2021, ICJC was instrumental in helping pass the nation-leading Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA).