

BayREN Forum Q4 2025

California's Evolving Energy Policy Landscape: Local Government Options Q+A and Resources

Disclaimer: We have removed duplicates and personal information, and edited for readability, but have not fact-checked the content of this document. Answers include responses from both attendees and presenters. Questions answered live during the event are omitted and can be viewed via the recordings available at

<https://www.bayren.org/events/californias-evolving-energy-policy-landscape-local-government-options-2025-11-19>.

| Question | Answer(s) |
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| Does the emergency health and safety exception only apply to home hardening? What guidance have local jurisdictions gotten around interpreting the health and safety exemption? | Please find more information from the CA Building Standards Commission at: https://www.dgs.ca.gov/BSC/News/Page-Content/Building-Standards-Commission-News-List-Folder/IB-25-03-AB-130 . |
| Is this neighborhood lower income? How would we give no cost installations to above average income residents? | The Menlo Park home upgrade services program is an income qualified program - so specifically residents at or below 120% AMI. Peninsula Clean Energy does have offerings to support market rate and "above average income" residents as well: https://www.peninsulacleanenergy.com/residential/ |
| Do you know when the cost effectiveness study will be available for CALGreen Tiers? | Not at this time, but flagging a key resource: https://www.localenergycodes.com/content/resources |
| Can you speak to how the 2022 code amendments are then applied to the 2025 code? Specifically, how they are adopted at council? | The measures adopted amending the 2022 code established the "existing code adopted before Sept. 30" that enabled adoption of requirements that are substantially equivalent to those in effect (exception 1) during the AB 130 six-year moratorium. We then separately included the code language and additional findings specifically mentioning that AB 130 exception with an ordinance amending the 2025 code. Ordinances require two public meetings, one for introduction and one for reading and adoption. |
| When will the building department training begin and who will initiate that, if it will be an organized training? | BayREN will be offering trainings for building department staff on the 2025 Energy Code starting in January 2026. We also have offered trainings for building departments on how to implement reach codes in the past. If that type of training would be helpful, we can consider offering that going forward as well. If you would like to schedule a team training for your department, please put in a request at: https://www.bayren.org/code-compliance/training . |
| Shouldn't the new/forthcoming PG&E rates support cost-effectiveness for more electrification? | Good point, the recent slight easing of electric rates does help. |

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| Will the results of the pending appeal/lawsuit of the South Coast's rules have any direct implications for the Bay Area Air District rules? | BAAD's legal department is tracking the pending South Coast litigation. The initial district court ruling upheld the ability of Air Districts to regulate the pollution emitted by appliances. If there are new rulings, we will evaluate their applicability as they come. |
| Will a recording of this presentation be available after today? | Yes, it will be available within a week of the forum at https://www.bayren.org/events-training?audience=All&type=Forum&title=#past , where you can also check out all our past virtual forums. |
| If jurisdictions want to use the toolkit, can we use the images with our own branding/logos or should we give credit to San Mateo County? | You are welcome to add your own branding to them as well as modify the text that goes along with the social media posts. I'm not 100% sure if we are requiring our branding be retained. |
| Does the air district have an informational handout jurisdictions can use? | Fact sheets are here: https://www.baaqmd.gov/en/community-health/building-appliances-rule-implementation See also: https://www.baaqmd.gov/rules-and-compliance/rule-development/building-appliances |

Other Resources:

- California Building Standards Commission on AB130: <https://www.dgs.ca.gov/BSC/News/Page-Content/Building-Standards-Commission-News-List-Folder/IB-25-03-AB-130>
- Peninsula Clean Energy Resources and Support for Residential Customers: <https://www.peninsulacleanenergy.com/residential/>
- Local Energy Codes Resources: <https://www.localenergycodes.com/content/resources>
- BayREN Upcoming Trainings: <https://www.bayren.org/events-training>
- BayREN Request a Training: <https://www.bayren.org/code-compliance/training>
- BayREN Past Forum Events: <https://www.bayren.org/events-training?audience=All&type=Forum&title=#past>
- Bay Area Air District Building Appliances Rule Implementation and Fact Sheets: <https://www.baaqmd.gov/en/community-health/building-appliances-rule-implementation>
- Bay Area Air District Rules 9-4 and 9-6 Building Appliances: <https://www.baaqmd.gov/rules-and-compliance/rule-development/building-appliances>