

1 [Affirming San Francisco's Commitment to Decarbonization Efforts that Center Environmental
2 Justice]

3 **Resolution affirming San Francisco's commitment to advancing equitable building**
4 **decarbonization efforts in the State of California by centering the leadership and needs**
5 **of environmental justice communities.**
6

7 WHEREAS, The draft 2025 San Francisco Climate Action Plan (April 2025)
8 (<https://www.sfenvironment.org/CAP-2025>) not only sets ambitious targets for the City to
9 reduce community-wide greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) by 2030, and reduce GHGs to
10 net-zero by 2040, it also proposes among its top five Energy Supply strategies that San
11 Francisco plan for the equitable decommissioning of the City's natural gas system; and

12 WHEREAS, Buildings represent the City's second-highest source
13 (<https://www.sf.gov/data--greenhouse-gas-emissions>) of GHG emissions after transportation
14 and must be decarbonized for the City to reach its 2025 Climate Action Plan targets; and

15 WHEREAS, Studies show (<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/23962958/>) methane gas
16 released from the sourcing and transportation of fossil gas used in buildings is 84 times more
17 potent than carbon dioxide over a 20-year period than other fuels for climate change; and

18 WHEREAS, Structural housing disinvestment, redlining, and discrimination have long
19 undermined economic and social stability in urban frontline environmental justice communities
20 across California and the United States, which disproportionately have been hit first and worst
21 by both the climate crisis and by gentrification; and

22 WHEREAS, Burning gas for cooking and heating releases harmful pollutants like
23 nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide, and formaldehyde, which are linked to respiratory
24 illnesses, asthma, and cardiovascular disease, and studies show
25

1 (<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/23962958/>) that children in homes with gas stoves have a
2 42% increased risk of having current asthma; and

3 WHEREAS, These indoor air quality dangers hit hardest in low-income communities
4 and communities of color, which already are exposed to poor outdoor air quality and its
5 accompanying negative health impacts; and

6 WHEREAS, Effectively addressing the intersecting challenges of climate change,
7 housing displacement, and indoor air quality requires an equitable, holistic approach to
8 building decarbonization that not only curbs GHGs that lead to the negative impacts from the
9 climate crisis, but also reduces housing-related and other forms of economic disparity;
10 protects tenants, low-income residents, and building owners from displacement; and supports
11 the climate resilience of low-income housing; and

12 WHEREAS, Whole-home green retrofits, through relatively less well known compared
13 to one-off appliance upgrade approaches that do not lead to whole building electrification, are
14 critical to equitable building decarbonization efforts because they provide a holistic approach
15 to reducing GHGs, while improving indoor air quality for residents, address health and safety
16 issues that often cause homes to be passed for many electrification programs, reduce
17 tenants' utility bills; and protect residents from extreme heat and power outages; and

18 WHEREAS, Green retrofits must include explicit tenant protections to prevent
19 displacement, and true environmental justice means healthy, dignified homes where working
20 families are not forced to choose between staying warm or cool, breathing safely, and
21 remaining in their homes; and

22 WHEREAS, An equitable building decarbonization transition requires the active
23 participation of climate-critical trades; both whole-home retrofits and appliance upgrades that
24 are a path to whole building electrification are an opportunity for the City to strengthen and
25 build a high-road workforce that will support and implement the City's climate, housing and

1 business development goals; and inserting contractor training, preparedness, and capacity
2 building initiatives in tandem with decarbonization efforts ensures an equitable implementation
3 approach; and

4 WHEREAS, Environmental justice community-based organizations, such as People
5 Organizing to Demand Environmental & Economic Rights (PODER) (<https://podersf.org/>), the
6 Emerald Cities Collaborative Northern California (ECC) (<https://emeraldcities.org/>), South of
7 Market Community Action Network (SOMCAN) (<https://www.somcan.org/>), and Bay View
8 Hunter's Point Community Advocates (BVHPCA) (<https://bvhpadvocates.org/>) are leading the
9 way on equitable building decarbonization, including advocacy for whole-home retrofit
10 approaches to electrification; and

11 WHEREAS, Having established the Equitable Building Decarbonization (EBD) Program
12 through the passage of Assembly Bill 209
13 ([https://legiscan.com/CA/text/AB209/id/2606026#:~:text=California%20Assembly%20Bill%20209%20\(AB%20209\)%20is,%20**Section%206254.5%20of%20the%20Government%20Code](https://legiscan.com/CA/text/AB209/id/2606026#:~:text=California%20Assembly%20Bill%20209%20(AB%20209)%20is,%20**Section%206254.5%20of%20the%20Government%20Code)
14 09%20(AB%20209)%20is,%20**Section%206254.5%20of%20the%20Government%20Code
15 ***) in 2022, to reduce GHGs in homes and advance energy equity, California is a national and
16 global public policy leader in reducing GHGs through equitable building decarbonization; and

17 WHEREAS, In 2024, the California legislature passed Senate Bill 1221 (SB1221)
18 (<https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/industries-and-topics/natural-gas/SB-1221-implementation>),
19 requiring the California Public Utilities Commission to establish a voluntary zonal building
20 decarbonization program and to designate priority neighborhoods, where a total of up to thirty
21 pilot zonal decarbonization projects statewide will be implemented that facilitate the transition
22 of residents' natural gas service to cost-effective, zero-emission alternatives; and

23 WHEREAS, The draft 2025 Climate Action Plan proposes that the City's Department of
24 Environment conduct community outreach to potential SB1221 gas decommissioning pilot
25 sites in 2026; and

1 WHEREAS, Robust grassroots organizing is critical to obtaining community consent for
2 a zonal project, given that SB1221 requires that no less than 67% of the property owners with
3 natural gas service within the pilot project boundary consent to the pilot project; and

4 WHEREAS, California's building decarbonization programs like SB1221 risk inequitably
5 excluding environmental justice communities, if they do not utilize maps developed by
6 environmental justice communities to define priority zones for program implementation; and

7 WHEREAS, In January 2023, an Environmental Justice Communities Map
8 ([https://generalplan.sfplanning.org/images/environmental-justice-](https://generalplan.sfplanning.org/images/environmental-justice-framework/Environmental_Justice_Communities-Map.pdf)
9 [framework/Environmental_Justice_Communities-Map.pdf](https://generalplan.sfplanning.org/images/environmental-justice-framework/Environmental_Justice_Communities-Map.pdf)) of disadvantaged communities was
10 created in consultation with environmental justice communities to meet the needs of Senate
11 Bill 1000 (SB1000)
12 (https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160SB1000) and
13 exists as a tool available for use in other equitable building decarbonization efforts in
14 California, such as SB1221; and

15 WHEREAS, The Climate Equity Hub, founded through strong community leadership
16 and engagement, emerged from the Energy Efficiency Coordinating Committee established in
17 2015, whose participating organizations now serve on the Hub's Advisory Committee, and
18 continue to refine the Hub's equitable building electrification offerings through ongoing
19 stakeholder input; and

20 WHEREAS, City programs such as the Climate Equity Hub help facilitate
21 implementation of the Equitable Building Decarbonization Program by acting as centralized
22 point of contact and coordinating a service portal for affordable electrification in environmental
23 justice communities that have disproportionately borne the brunt of air pollution and other
24 environmental hazards; and

1 WHEREAS, San Francisco Environment Department staff directly support the Climate
2 Equity Hub; the implementation of the Climate Action Plan; and broader building
3 decarbonization efforts such as critical community education, incentives, technical support,
4 and green workforce training, among other initiatives; and

5 WHEREAS, Whole home and community electrification through equitable building
6 decarbonization is an important way that government and community can work together to
7 create healthy and resilient homes and neighborhoods for all in San Francisco; and

8 WHEREAS, It is critical for the City and County of San Francisco to respond to the
9 needs of its residents, including historically overlooked and disinvested environmental justice
10 communities that are most in need of public resources; now, therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors affirms San Francisco's commitment to
12 become a leading city advancing equitable building decarbonization efforts in the state of
13 California by centering the leadership and needs of environmental justice communities and by
14 bringing investments into neighborhoods like the Mission District and the Tenderloin District,
15 to advance healthy resilient homes for all San Franciscans; and, be it

16 FURTHER RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors urges the California Public Utilities
17 Commission to formally adopt and utilize the San Francisco Environmental Justice
18 Communities Map ([https://generalplan.sfplanning.org/images/environmental-justice-](https://generalplan.sfplanning.org/images/environmental-justice-framework/Environmental_Justice_Communities-Map.pdf)
19 [framework/Environmental_Justice_Communities-Map.pdf](https://generalplan.sfplanning.org/images/environmental-justice-framework/Environmental_Justice_Communities-Map.pdf)) created for SB1000 to define
20 disadvantaged community neighborhoods that should be prioritized in the selection of thirty
21 pilot zonal decarbonization project sites for the SB 1221 program; and, be it

22 FURTHER RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors enthusiastically acknowledges that
23 East San Francisco has been selected as a Northern Region Initial Community Focus Areas
24 for the EBD Statewide Direct Install Program and enthusiastically supports the implementation
25

1 of this program through partnerships with community-based organizations such as PODER,
2 ECC, and BVHPCA; and, be it

3 FURTHER RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors fully supports an SB1221 pilot in the
4 Mission District, the Tenderloin District, or elsewhere in San Francisco, with the stated goal of
5 modeling equitable whole-home electrification for an entire city block that will improve
6 housing, public health, and environmental outcomes for working-class residents of color; and
7 commits to being an active and avid partner in supporting successful implementation by
8 identifying at least one staff member to participate in regular meetings and to support
9 coordination across relevant departments; and, be it

10 FURTHER RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors strongly urges efforts to increase
11 funding to continue implementing the Climate Action Plan and ensure that all San Franciscans
12 benefit from the transition to an all-electric, net-zero emission City; and, be it

13 FURTHER RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors urges the San Francisco
14 Environment Department and the Mayor's Office of Housing & Community Development to
15 explore partnerships with community-based environmental justice organizations to continue
16 implementing and scaling equitable building decarbonization projects in neighborhoods
17 throughout the City; and, be it

18 FURTHER RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors directs the Clerk of the Board to
19 transmit copies of this Resolution to the Mayor's Office of Housing & Community
20 Development, the San Francisco Environment Department, the California Public Utilities
21 Commission, and the City's State Legislature.