

1 [Support of the Energy Performance in Newly Constructed Buildings Ordinance, File Number:  
2 190974]

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4 **Resolution urging the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor to adopt File Number**  
5 **190974, an ordinance amending the Green Building Code to require newly constructed**  
6 **buildings in San Francisco to either use electricity as the source of energy for all**  
7 **building systems and exclude natural gas; or to significantly improve energy**  
8 **performance if any systems utilize natural gas.**

9 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco has a duty to protect the natural  
10 environment, the economy, and the health of its citizens; and,

11 WHEREAS, the San Francisco Commission on the Environment seeks to improve,  
12 enhance, and preserve the environment and to promote San Francisco's long-term  
13 environmental sustainability as set forth in Section 4.118 of the City Charter; and,

14 WHEREAS, climate change has already affected San Francisco to varying degrees  
15 including degraded air quality from wildfires, drought, flooding, and extreme heat and is  
16 projected to increase the number of extreme heat days, increase sea level rise and flooding,  
17 increase the frequency and severity of droughts and extreme storms, and worsen air quality;  
18 and,

19 WHEREAS, the elderly, the poor, young children, those with pre-existing medical  
20 conditions, and communities of color are the most likely to suffer the greatest health impacts  
21 from climate change; and

22 WHEREAS, San Francisco has established an ambitious goal of achieving net zero  
23 emissions by 2050 to reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions in order to stabilize the  
24 planet and protect the health of our residents; and,

1           WHEREAS, at the Global Climate Action Summit in 2018, Mayor London Breed  
2 committed San Francisco to new building decarbonization goals, which require all new  
3 buildings to be net zero emissions no later than 2030 and all existing buildings to be net zero  
4 emissions by 2050; and,

5           WHEREAS, strong energy efficiency standards have reduced emissions by lowering  
6 overall energy use and the increased availability of renewable energy also has reduced  
7 emissions associated with electricity usage; and,

8           WHEREAS, in 2017, the operation of buildings was still responsible for 43.7% of  
9 Citywide greenhouse gas emissions; and,

10           WHEREAS, in 2017, 80% of emissions from the operation of buildings citywide was  
11 due to consumption of natural gas or district steam produced via combustion of natural gas;  
12 and,

13           WHEREAS, the primary constituent of natural gas is methane, which is 86 times more  
14 potent as a greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide; and

15           WHEREAS, more than 4% of methane leaks into the atmosphere prior to delivery; and,

16           WHEREAS, reducing reliance on natural gas as an energy source will decrease  
17 building emissions and benefit the health, safety, and welfare of San Francisco and its  
18 residents by improving indoor air quality and reducing harmful greenhouse gas emissions;  
19 and,

20           WHEREAS, requiring energy-efficient and all-electric systems in buildings at the time of  
21 new construction and major renovations is more cost-effective than replacing equipment in  
22 good working order, because workers are already on-site, permitting and administrative costs  
23 are lower, and standard construction financing can incorporate such systems; now, therefore,  
24 be it,

1 RESOLVED, That the Commission on the Environment urges the Board of Supervisors  
2 and the Mayor to adopt File Number 190974, an ordinance ensuring critical greenhouse gas  
3 reductions from the buildings sector; and, be it,

4 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Commission on the Environment urges the Board of  
5 Supervisors and the Mayor to continue to support policies that help San Francisco reach its  
6 goal of achieving net zero emissions from new construction no later than 2030 and from all  
7 buildings by 2050.

8 I hereby certify that this Resolution was adopted at the Commission on the  
9 Environment's Meeting on November 25, 2019.

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~~Anthony Valdez, Commission Secretary~~  
*Choner Sheehan, Policy and Public Affairs Manager*

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Vote: 6-0 Approved

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Ayes: Commissioners Bermejo, Chu, Stephenson, Sullivan, Wan, and Wald

17

Noes: None

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Absent: Commissioner Ahn

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