

Finlayson, Ian (ENE)

From: Karen Willson <karenwillson53@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, 7 August 2022 1:39 PM
To: STRETCHCODE (ENE)
Subject: BUILDING CODE COMMENTS

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Dear Commissioner Woodcock, Secretary Card, and Secretary Kennealy,

As the mother of two young adults, I've long felt a pang of jealousy as my friends become grandparents. Recently I noticed that I now have a sense of dread and fear instead. I am deeply concerned about the climate crisis and the impact it will have on the lives of my children and future generations. This concern spurred me to join Mothers Out Front, the grassroots environmental organization advocating for climate mitigation locally in my town of Bedford, MA, as well as throughout the state. If we are to meet our town and state goals for reduction of GHG emissions from buildings by 2030, we need to maximize energy efficiency, maximize use of on-site solar energy, and eliminate fossil fuel usage in our buildings as soon as possible. We need DOER to develop a Net Zero opt-in stretch energy code.

In 2019, Bedford's Net Zero Report revealed that non-residential buildings, largely those used for R&D and manufacturing, account for 86% of total electricity use and 74% of total natural gas use. Those buildings in Bedford and across the state need to become part of the solution by maximizing use of on-site solar energy and providing a high percentage of EV charging stations for their employees.

Bedford's housing stock includes many capes and ranches from the 1950's and 1960's which are not energy efficient and are modest in size. We need a building code that covers all renovations, including small scale renovations, so that homeowners will maximize the energy efficiency of their homes and replace fossil fuel systems and appliances when it is most cost-efficient to do so - during the renovation process.

It is imperative that DOER develop a true Net Zero specialized stretch energy code and allow municipal adoption by a vote that takes place any time before the January 1st or July 1st effective dates. This will empower local leaders and advocates with the tools and flexibility they will need to meet their local and state GHG emission reduction goals for 2030.

A final point regarding building energy reporting and commissioning-- it's missing in the revised draft of the specialized stretch code. Without this information, how will we know if Net Zero buildings are performing as they are intended? How can we track our progress? We need DOER to require building energy reporting and commissioning to ensure we are making progress towards emissions reductions in our buildings in a transparent manner.

I urge DOER to develop a true Net Zero voluntary energy stretch code that ensures that the Commonwealth can meet building sector emissions targets while also making buildings a

core climate mitigator and protector of our health. Please eliminate all fossil fuel pathways for all new construction and renovations.

Sincerely,

Karen Willson

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