

Finlayson, Ian (ENE)

From: Carol Disney <caroldisney1@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 10 August 2022 5:25 PM
To: STRETCHCODE (ENE)
Subject: Building code comments

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To DOER,

I am a member of Mass Audubon writing in support of the New Zero Code Framework, which will require fossil free paths to code compliance for new buildings. Electrical pre-wiring, as proposed by the Baker administration does not go far enough. It requires costly retrofitting, planning and inconvenience to homeowners and businesses.

This is why I think it is important. I consider my husband and I to be fairly "green" consumers and homeowners. We have installed solar panels that supply all our electricity needs and more, hang our clothes on a clothesline, compost, use rain barrels, etc. However, we have not yet made the step to buying an electric heat pump to replace our gas furnace. Why not? Because it is expensive, and we have a five year old gas furnace which will likely last for years. If our house already had a heat pump when we bought it, it might have added a small amount to our mortgage. But to replace our current furnace, we would essentially pay for two heating appliances, our gas furnace and a new heat pump. That's expensive! Pre-wiring new construction is not the answer.

I know that the most recent data (from 2020) shows that only 451 households in Massachusetts converted to heat pumps. While that may eventually benefit the people who purchased heat pumps, it does nothing to move the needle in our desperate need to reduce greenhouse gases and obtain carbon neutrality by 2050, as required by the Global Warming Solutions Act.

While I am mildly encouraged by possible federal legislation to help combat climate change, it is not enough. We cannot rely on the federal government to solve this problem alone. **We have to collectively work hard to meet the moment by creating pathways for homeowners, commercial property owners, communities and states to do their part in getting to net zero. Supporting a New Zero Code Framework can be an important piece of the solution.** Halfway or baby steps don't cut it anymore.

Sincerely,
Carol Disney