

Finlayson, Ian (ENE)

From: Katharina Wilkins <akatharinawilkins@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, 6 August 2022 8:15 AM
To: STRETCHCODE (ENE)
Subject: BUILDING CODE COMMENTS

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Hello -

as a resident of a notoriously high energy-consuming town, Weston, I would like to send my support for the new stretch code moving us towards a fossil fuel free, fully electrified new world of building.

In our suburban world, where the largest homes seem to dominate the market share, leading to frequent tear-downs, I would hope that the stretch code would force new developments (often done for profit by corporations, to then be sold to the new resident homeowner) into that new world. It would increase our resilience, improve everyone's health, and show our youth that we care about their future.

If towns like Weston, along with others in the state of MA, can opt into a stronger stretch code, I believe it would help to achieve an overall acceleration of electrification in the whole country. If electrified homes with heat pumps and solar panels become the 'new normal', it will increase confidence that the technology is ready, feasible and cost effective in our climate.

I know from my work as a member of Weston's sustainability committee that fossil fuel free homes, or other fully electrified homes, are feasible and resilient, but many residents are still hesitant to deviate from what has been the norm for too long. If the whole state moves to an opt-in code, it will signal to all who are building or renovating that the real estate markets will soon respond in kind - making sustainability features an important way in which our homes retain or even improve their values.

As a member of our sustainability committee, a MA wide framework would be something we would want to bring to our town meeting to 'opt in' in a democratic fashion - and we need the final draft of the language soon before the next opportunity for such a town meeting. Please do finalize this important piece of legislation so that we municipal volunteers and activist volunteers can get to work educating and outreaching, ensuring a rapid adoption of the Opt in code in as many towns as possible

Anna Katharina Wilkins, PhD

Sustainability Committee of the Town of Weston, chair

Sustainable Weston Action Group, founding member

Mother of three teenagers who deserve better than what is currently in store for them and their future

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~Every child begins the world again~ (Henry David Thoreau)