

## Finlayson, Ian (ENE)

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**From:** Mike Sarcione <mgsarcione@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 4 August 2022 4:02 PM  
**To:** STRETCHCODE (ENE)  
**Subject:** Building Code Comments

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I am concerned that the Stretch Code Update doesn't allow/include hybrid dual fuel heat pump systems in the HERS index/rating. I recognize the importance of eliminating fossil fuels in transportation, heating and appliances (cooking, hot water, etc.). However, there are some issues that will prevent a much wider adoption of the Stretch Code across the State and nationally especially in colder climates. The resilience/reliability of the grid, especially in rural areas is very vulnerable to the increasing number and intensity of winter storms. Thus residents with all electric (even solar with battery storage) will not be able to shelter in place in the event of a major storm, as they have no way to survive the cold weather. Thus a significant rescue effort will be required as compared to the current situation and thus require more and larger emergency shelters which themselves will need backup power. Dual fuel heat pumps (electric being the primary source) will at least give them a backup and only allow them to burn natural gas/propane in an emergency via the existing infrastructure/local storage tanks. This would enable existing natural gas/propane customers to switch to a dual fuel heat pump system with electric as the primary heating source and have confidence that they are able to survive significant winter storms sooner than later. The push to all electric must have first in place a reliable grid which isn't prone to downed trees, failed transformers/equipment and snow covered solar panels. Otherwise we are putting significantly more people at risk. I hope that you consider this compromise, not ideal, but more realistic in the near term with what we have to work with for energy infrastructure.

Mike Sarcione