# ELECTRIFYING AMERICA'S FUTURE

The Zero-Emission Homes Act of 2021 led by U.S. Senator Martin Heinrich (D-New Mexico) provides rebates for the purchase and installation of zero-emission electric appliances and equipment in single family homes and multifamily buildings with additional support for low-and-moderate income (LMI) households. The goal of the bill is to make the economic, environmental, and health benefits of electrification affordable and accessible to all Americans.

# **ACTING ON CLIMATE**

Electrification of household appliances is the key to decarbonizing our economy. American households collectively account for approximately 42% of U.S. energy-related emissions, from heating and cooling to cooking and transportation. To meet our emissions reduction targets, we need to eliminate carbon pollution from Americans' 121 million homes. Clean, electric appliances for space heating, space cooling, water heating, cooking, and other household functions are available now, and, in most instances, they perform as well, if not better, than their fossil-fuel counterparts. Electric appliances also avoid the harmful health effects—such as childhood asthma—increasingly associated with the burning of fossil fuels in homes and often concentrated in communities that have experienced systemic disinvestment.

# **CREATING AMERICAN JOBS & LOWERING ENERGY BILLS**

Electrification also offers enormous economic opportunities. More than 103 million households would save money on their monthly energy bills today if they were using modern electric equipment rather than propane, fuel oil, electric resistance, and other fossil-burning technologies. Manufacturing, installing, and servicing these new electric appliances would also create over one million new jobs with the potential to pay family-sustaining wages, with installation and servicing jobs distributed across America.

# MAKING ELECTRIFICATION EASY & AFFORDABLE

The Zero-Emission Homes Act seeks to make electrification easy and affordable for all Americans so we can all play a role in meeting our climate targets. The legislation defines products and projects associated with household electrification as "qualified electrification projects" or "QEPs." It then establishes a Zero-Emission Homes Program that provides households with rebates for the purchase and installation of QEPs. The federal zero-emission home program would provide up to \$10,000 in immediate price relief for the purchase and installation of select QEPs with additional amounts for low-and-moderate income (LMI) households.

Contractors would be incentivized to install QEPs in homes through bonuses that increase if the home either single-family or in a multifamily building—is in an underserved community. To reach the communities most in need of support, the legislation defines underserved communities as inclusive of LMI households, Tribal communities, and those primarily composed of racial or ethnic minorities. To further promote uptake, the rebates are transferable to a qualified provider, which could be a contractor, a contractor business, a utility, a government entity, a non-profit, or a commercial entity, including retailers.

### SENATE ENDORSEMENTS

### Martin Heinrich (D-New Mexico)

"Electrifying our homes and businesses is one of the surest climate actions that we can take right now. We can use already existing, proven technologies to dramatically reduce carbon pollution, create millions of good-paying jobs, and secure a more equitable future for our communities. The goal of the Zero-Emission Homes Act is to make the economic, environmental, and health benefits of electrification affordable and accessible to all Americans."

### Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.)

"This legislation will mean cheaper energy bills for households and reduced emissions – a win for both consumers and for our planet. By incentivizing the purchase of clean electric appliances and shifting away from ones that pollute, the Zero Emissions Home Act will create jobs and put us on a smarter, sustainable path for the future."

### Michael Bennet (D-Colo.)

"Climate change is having a dramatic and dangerous effect on Colorado communities. In order to take bold climate action and meet science-based emissions reduction targets, we need to help America's households reduce their carbon pollution while lowering their energy bills. Right now, households account for nearly half of U.S. energy-related emissions. Our legislation makes purchasing and installing electric appliances more affordable to save families money and help tackle climate change."

# Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.)

"Congress has a duty to empower and assist everyday Americans in reducing their carbon footprint. Legislation like the Zero-Emission Homes Act of 2021 would help incentivize Americans to utilize zero- emission electric appliances through rebates, and provide the resources to those who may not be able to afford to take these proactive steps otherwise. This is a smart bill that would modernize our economy, lower energy bills, and increase accessibility to electrification for every American household."

### Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.)

"The economic, health, and environmental benefits of electric home appliances are widely known. Our Zero-Emission Homes Program would help cover the costs of upgrading to cleaner electric appliances for Rhode Islanders. This is something we can do right now to reduce our carbon footprint and get new, high-functioning appliances into homes."

# Cory Booker (D-N.J.)

"Making electric home appliances more accessible and affordable has the potential to both help families save money and help in the fight against climate change. I'm proud to join my colleagues in introducing the Zero- Emission Homes Act, legislation that would help transition households to electric appliances while also creating over a million new jobs and reducing our carbon footprint."

# Ben Ray Luján (D-N.M.)

"Technology to reduce carbon pollution already exists, but too many communities in New Mexico and across the country still face barriers. That's why I'm proud to co-sponsor the Zero-Emission Homes Act to make electrification technology more affordable and accessible for businesses and families while creating new, good- paying jobs."

# Brian Schatz (D-Hawaii)

"Transitioning to electric appliances in our homes is one way we can significantly cut carbon pollution – and create more than a million good-paying jobs in the process. We already have the technology – we just need to make it easier. Our bill is about making sure it's affordable and accessible for every family."

### SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

Acterra

Act Now Coalition Ajax Strategies American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE) Appraccel April Philips Design Works Arcadia Arizona PIRG Association for Energy Affordability, Inc. Barton Bricks LLC Benisol, LLC Birdsmouth Design-Build BlocPower BrightAction Build Efficiently, LLC **Building Electrification Institute Bygblock Caelux** Corporation California Interfaith Climate Action CAL PIRG Capital Good Fund Carbon Free Palo Alto Center for American Progress (CAP) Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) ChargerHelp! Chesapeake Climate Action Network Action Fund Cinergi Group Citizens Utility Board - Illinois City of Pittsburgh, PA City of Ann Arbor, Michigan Climate Action.tech **Climate Changemakers Climate** Change Resources Climate Rail Alliance Climate Smart Missoula ConnPIRG **Continental Energy Solutions** CoPIRG Coyote Worx Covid Act Now Data for Progress David Sullivan Companies Design **AVEnues LLC Detroiters Working** for Environmental Justice Donna Graves Public History DRAWDOWN Bay Area Drawdown NYC **Dvele Inc Earthjustice** Effective Climate Action Project EHDD

**Electrify Now Elevate Elmworks** Energy Development Consultants, LLC **Environment America Environment** Arizona Environment Colorado **Environment California Environment** Connecticut Environment Florida **Environment Georgia Environment** Illinois Environment Iowa **Environment Maine Environment** Maryland Environment Massachusetts Environment Michigan Environment Minnesota **Environment Missouri Environment** Montana Environment Nevada **Environment New Hampshire Environment New Jersey Environment New Mexico Environment New York** Environment North Carolina **Environment Ohio Environment** Oregon Environment Rhode Island **Environment Texas Environment** Virginia Environment Washington **Evergreen Action** EV Life Florida PIRG Frederickson Electric Fresh Energy Fujitsu General America Full Circle Planet Georgia PIRG GeoSolar Technologies Greenvest Green Work Huck Capital Idlewild Partners Illinois PIRG Inclusive Prosperity Capital, Inc. Indivisible Ross Valley Innovation Network for Communities Iowa Environmental Council Iowa PIRG Jewish Climate Action Network Jonathan Rose Companies Kitchens to Life LaPlaca and Associates LLC

LGM

Lumen Energy, Inc. Marin/Sonoma **Building Electrification Squad Maryland PIRG MASSPIRG** Mazzetti Menlo Spark Michigan Environmental Council Midwest **Building Decarbonization Coalition** Mighty Buildings, Inc MHG Solar **MoPIRG** National Housing Trust Natural Resources Defense Council Natural Capitalism Solutions NCPIRG New Avenue Homes NHPIRG NJPIRG NMPIRG npc Solar Ohio PIRG OptiMiser LLC **OSPIRG** Peninsula Interfaith Climate Action PennEnvironment PennPIRG Phius PIRGIM PosiGen Power Up for Climate Solutions Primary Productions Progress Noe Valley Project Green Home Purpose Venture Group Redwood Energy **RENEW Wisconsin Rewiring America** RIPIRG Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) Rolling Ravine San Carlos Green Sierra Club Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action Span Solar Gain Solar Mosaic, Inc. Southwest Energy Efficiency Project (SWEEP) Sunrun Sustainable Mill Valley Sustainable San Mateo County System Smart Terrament

### TexPIRG

- The Community Development Corporation of PHP The Ecological Development Foundation, Inc The Enviro Show Thrive Collaborative Trove Unitarian Universalist Church of Palo Alto, Green Sanctuary Unite North Metro Denver Urban Paradise Guild
- U.S. PIRG Vector Green Power and Materials, LLC Vermont Climate and Health Alliance View/Find Evaluation Voltus, Inc. Vote Solar Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility WashPIRG Wisconsin Environment
- Wisconsin Health Professionals for Climate Action WISPIRG 1Row 21st Century Learning Advisors 350 Chicago 350 Conejo / San Fernando Valley 350 Everett 350 Humboldt 350 Marin 350 Seattle