

Contact:

**Lisa Arkin**, Executive Director

541-465-8860 x804

Email: [larkin@beyondtoxics.org](mailto:larkin@beyondtoxics.org)

<http://www.beyondtoxics.org/resources/press-kit/>



## **For Immediate Release - July 29, 2022**

---

### **Eugene City Council moves toward all-electric policies for new residential, business construction**

The Council has also set goals to decarbonize existing buildings by 2050.

**Eugene, OR.** - The Eugene City Council, on July 27, took steps to move the city away from natural gas in favor of all-electric construction. City staff will draft an ordinance requiring new residential buildings three stories or less to be 100% electric beginning June 1, 2023 and will hold a work session in fall to discuss prohibiting natural gas and all fossil fuel infrastructure in all new commercial buildings. Furthermore, the city manager was directed to bring back a revision to the Climate Action Plan to formalize the electrification of residential, and as feasible, commercial buildings by 2035, and industrial buildings by 2050.

As summers become increasingly hot and wildfires pose a greater threat to our communities each year, it is time for our leaders to act on climate change and work for climate justice for future generations of Oregonians. This is a huge accomplishment for Fossil Free Eugene and Fossil Free Lane County, a coalition of nonprofits which has been working with the city to achieve its climate goals.

City Council also directed the city manager to return to the council this fall with a proposal for engaging the public to develop a plan for the transition of buildings to becoming decarbonized, a term referring to choosing energy sources that do not emit carbon, with an emphasis on social, environmental and economic equity, especially regarding historically marginalized communities.

Beyond Toxics plays a key role within the coalition by centering equity in the work of a Fossil Free Eugene. “We must consider what a just transition off of fossil fuels looks like and have steps in place to support impacted communities, such as BIPOC, rural and low income residents,” said Paige Hopkins, Climate Justice Organizer with Beyond Toxics.

“The passage of these motions is a step in the right direction as we need to take necessary action to combat the impacts of climate change,” Hopkins said. “As we develop sensible and climate-smart policy, we move closer to the goal of a fossil free future for all.”

---

[Beyond Toxics](http://www.beyondtoxics.org) provides leadership to build a community-driven environmental justice movement for a thriving and just Oregon. We envision a society where everyone has equitable access to healthy food and clean air and water, and underserved communities are included in decision making processes that affect them. Together, we move beyond the damaging environmental practices of the past and collectively work to support and maintain ecological resilience and balance.