



Upgrading Seattle's big buildings is our chance to win cooling for thousands of Seattle residents, tackle our fastest-growing source of climate pollution, and create hundreds of family-wage jobs building our clean energy future.

This spring, Seattle City Council is considering a policy that sets deadlines for when big buildings (>20k sq ft) have to **transition off fossil fuels**. This has the potential to create thousands of **good green union jobs**, and **bring cooling to homes and workplaces across our city**. But big corporations are pushing for unacceptable deadlines like 2050, false solutions like renewable natural gas, and minimal fees for non-compliance.

With harmful climate impacts already impacting our communities, urgent messages from climate scientists that we need to move faster, and a huge amount of federal money available now for climate upgrades, we have no excuse to wait until 2050 to move Seattle's big buildings off fossil fuels!

If we win this fight, we could see all of our schools, libraries, university campuses, grocery stores, hotels, office buildings and large apartment buildings in Seattle upgraded to be all-electric and equipped with cooling systems in the next 10 years. And we could see hundreds of green jobs for our communities this decade!

That's why we are calling on City leaders to:

- 1. Align timelines with Seattle's Green New Deal goals:** Require all publicly owned buildings covered by the policy to achieve net-zero emissions by 2030. Require all privately owned buildings covered by the policy to achieve net-zero emissions by 2035, with targeted exemptions to meet the unique needs of hospitals and affordable housing.
- 2. Reject false climate solutions like 'renewable natural gas':** When burned in our homes and buildings, renewable natural gas releases [the same amount of climate pollution](#) as conventional natural gas. Moreover, the use of renewable natural gas in buildings puts public health at risk from [associated indoor](#) and [outdoor air pollution](#). To meet our climate goals and protect the public, buildings must be powered and heated with clean energy and high-efficiency technology.
- 3. No 'pay to pollute' incentives:** Seattle can ensure this policy translates into real jobs and climate action this decade by setting the non-compliance fees to match [the true social cost of carbon](#). Any revenue raised should be reinvested in programs directly supporting building decarbonization in environmental justice communities.

It will take a powerful grassroots push and cross-movement coalition to beat the big corporations opposing climate action. We need YOU!

