



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

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PRESS RELEASE

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COUNTY ELECTRIFICATION ORDINANCE GOES INTO EFFECT

To help mitigate the impacts of climate change, beginning January 1, 2023, the County of Santa Cruz will require all new residential construction in urban, unincorporated areas of the County to be designed with permanent sources of electricity as the only form of energy.

The new requirements state that electricity is required for all forms of energy consumption in applicable homes, including heating and cooling, cooking appliances, water heating including pools and spas, and clothes drying appliances. The rules apply to all newly constructed residential developments, including residential areas of mixed-use projects, multi-family, single-family and ADUs located within the urban services line.

“This is a major first step in our ongoing efforts to reduce our carbon footprint from the built environment,” said David Reid, the County’s director of the Office of Response, Recovery and Resilience. “Through our Climate Action and Adaptation Plan, we can achieve carbon neutrality and protect the planet for future generations by taking more actions to decarbonize our lives like this one.”

The rules do not apply to non-residential buildings, non-residential sections of mixed-use buildings, or buildings located outside the County’s urban services line. Nor do they apply to existing or permitted residential buildings or CZU Fire rebuilds, which are located outside the urban services line.

The rules were adopted Nov. 15, 2022 as part of a State Building Code update. The rules impact unincorporated areas and do not affect construction within local cities.