

The Zero-Emission Homes Act of 2021 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 every county in 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 and multifamily buildings.

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.