



City of Boston, Massachusetts  
Office of the Mayor  
**MICHELLE WU**

**EXECUTIVE ORDER  
OF  
MAYOR MICHELLE WU**

**An Executive Order Eliminating the Use of Fossil Fuels in New Construction and Major Renovations of City Buildings**

On behalf of the City of Boston, this Executive Order asserts Mayor Michelle Wu's commitment to accelerating climate action by requiring that all new municipal buildings and major renovations operate without fossil fuels, reducing emissions from Boston's building sector while creating high-quality jobs, improving public health and quality of life, and advancing racial and economic justice.

- WHEREAS:* To accelerate climate action in Boston, the City of Boston must accelerate the reduction of carbon emissions from local government operations; *and*
- WHEREAS:* Municipal emissions constitute 2.3% of all of Boston's carbon emissions, and 70% of the City's emissions are from buildings; *and*
- WHEREAS:* The Building Emissions Reduction and Disclosure Ordinance (BERDO), as amended in 2021, sets emissions standards for large existing buildings, requiring all covered buildings, including municipal buildings, to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050; *and*
- WHEREAS:* Every new capital investment in new construction or major renovation project presents an opportunity to catalyze the decarbonization of Boston's building sector by constructing or retrofitting buildings to eliminate the use of fossil fuels in building operations; *and*
- WHEREAS:* Investing in fossil fuel-free buildings will create new jobs in the building trades as well as building design and maintenance, expanding local opportunities to strengthen workforce development programs, apprenticeships and other training pipelines for Boston residents to gain access to high-quality employment in the building sector; *and*



*WHEREAS:* Highly efficient, fossil fuel-free buildings are more cost-effective to operate in the long run, reducing municipal energy costs and creating cost savings that can be reinvested in local municipal services; *and*

*WHEREAS:* Highly efficient, fossil fuel-free buildings also create immediate health benefits for building occupants by improving indoor air quality, increasing resilience, and lessening the symptoms of existing respiratory and other health conditions, which disproportionately impact Boston's communities of color; *and*

*THEREFORE:* Pursuant to St. 1948, c. 452, s. 11, as amended, and every other power hereto enabling, *I hereby order and direct as follows:*

I, Michelle Wu, Mayor of Boston, hereby affirm the City's commitment to becoming a Green New Deal city by accelerating climate mitigation and adaptation in ways that create high-quality jobs, improve public health and quality of life for residents and workers, and advance racial and economic justice.

To this end, I hereby order that all new municipal buildings and major renovations in municipal buildings will be fossil fuel-free.

1. All new buildings will be planned, designed, and constructed so that HVAC, hot water and cooking systems will not combust or directly connect to fossil fuels.
2. This order applies to all municipal buildings, including schools, Police and Fire Department stations, offices, and public-private partnerships on City land that house City facilities.
3. This order applies to all new buildings as well as alterations where structural work (i.e., moving of walls) is planned in 75% or more of the building's square footage. Any project that replaces a building's heating, ventilation, air conditioning or hot water system, or cooking equipment, must eliminate fossil fuel combustion in the affected system.
4. On-site combustion of fossil fuels will be permitted for emergency generators, life safety equipment, and equipment for educational purposes.
5. This order does not apply to emergency repairs and replacements where health and safety are at risk or where critical city services would be compromised. If an emergency requires installation of new fossil fuel equipment, an analysis must be conducted to determine if there are cost effective and lower carbon temporary measures.
6. This order does not apply to temporary structures or temporary fossil fuel use during construction.
7. The provisions of this order shall take immediate effect. Projects in procurement, design, or construction are not subject to this order.

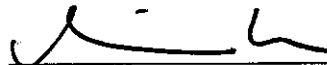
8. At the project scoping phase, projects that are not covered by this order must undergo an analysis to determine if their scope should include components that will facilitate the future removal of fossil fuels, e.g., envelope tightening, electrical upgrades.
9. A designee from each of the Mayor's Office, the Chief of Operations, and the Chief of Environment, Energy, and Open Space shall resolve any questions regarding applicability of the emergency exemption and any other questions about the applicability of this order.
10. Nothing in this Executive Order is intended to conflict with current or future state energy and building codes, nor required or voluntary energy and emissions reductions programs.

I hereby order every relevant City cabinet, department, agency, and office to take all necessary steps to implement this Executive Order, including through the allocation of funding and other resources in a manner consistent with applicable law.

The provisions of this Order are severable, and if any provision, or portion thereof should be held to be unconstitutional or otherwise invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, such unconstitutionality or invalidity shall not affect the remaining provisions that shall remain in full force and effect.

This Executive Order shall take effect immediately. This Executive Order and the provisions herein shall remain in effect unless superseded or otherwise changed by Executive Order.

**SIGNED THIS 31st DAY OF JULY, 2023**



Michelle Wu  
Mayor of Boston

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