

From: [Paul Marshall](#)
To: [PublicComments, PUC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : PUC Public Comment - future of regulated gas distribution
Date: Monday, October 17, 2022 9:29:41 AM

To the PUC,

First of all, I'd like to thank you for both the opportunity to provide input and for your hard work in helping move RI forward.

The world, our country, and more importantly Rhode Island needs to seek a rapid and just transition from fossil fuels to clean energy in order to preserve a stable climate system.

Rhode Island's gas network is outdated, leaks and is doing more harm than good to our communities.

It should be the responsibility of the PUC to act aggressively to phase out the gas network, as required by the Act On Climate.

The solution should respect the following principles:

1. All new gas pipeline infrastructure should be banned and policy put in place that new homes and businesses require efficient electric ranges, water heaters, and heat pumps available and cost-competitive.
3. District geothermal "GeoGrids" are a promising approach that maintains a role for the utility in managing shared heating (and cooling) infrastructure. It should be aggressively piloted.
4. For residents without access to district heating, air source heat pumps must be the system of choice. Workforce training, simple financing, subsidies and technology support are needed to execute this transition and prevent people from locking in decades more gas dependence when they replace their furnace.
5. The utility must monitor gas usage and carbon footprint across the state at the level of individual buildings and be directly incentivized to minimize it via performance-based regulation on the necessary schedule.
6. Financing and pilot programs are a must and should target Rhode Islanders in poor, marginalized, and environmentally overburdened communities.

Thank you,
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