

Environment & Energy

# Boston Mayor Seeks Fossil Fuel Ban in New or Renovated Buildings

By Zach Bright

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Boston could set building standards that limit or ban fossil fuel use in new developments and big renovations, Mayor Michelle Wu announced on Tuesday.

Wu plans to file a petition to join a pilot program launched by a recently signed landmark state climate law. Provisions in the law would allow 10 municipalities to withhold or condition construction permits if buildings would use fossil fuels and create other ordinances to restrict fossil fuels.

“Boston’s participation will help deliver healthy, energy efficient spaces that save our residents and businesses on utilities costs and create local green jobs that will fuel our economy for decades,” Wu said in a release.

1. Wu will file a fossil fuel-free building ordinance to the Boston City Council based off input collected by a community engagement advisory committee.
2. The committee—with environmental justice, affordable housing, labor, engineering, energy, public health, and real estate experts—will help define fossil fuel-free building standards, applicability, and a phase-out timeline.
3. Buildings contribute to about 70% of Boston’s greenhouse gas emissions, according to the city’s latest numbers.
4. On-site fossil fuel combustion in buildings accounts for more than one-third of city emissions, according to the mayor’s release.

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