

**From:** [Virginia VanKuran](#)  
**To:** [Council, City](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment - City Council Meeting, December 13, Agenda Item 19  
**Date:** Sunday, December 12, 2021 7:05:15 PM

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Dear Palo Alto City Council,

I would like to thank the City Council for establishing the S/CAP Ad Hoc Committee. I've attended most of the Committee Meetings, watched the All-Electric Homes webinar and completed the survey. All were informative, well presented and allowed plenty of time for questions and comments.

The S/CAP Ad Hoc Committee and the City Department of Utilities staff have done an excellent job and I would like to express my appreciation for all of their work so far. Given the enormity and number of work items to complete in the coming months and years I urge the City Council to keep the S/CAP Ad Hoc Committee in place for as long as needed and as they are willing to serve so there can be an ongoing collaboration.

I support both of the S/CAP Ad Hoc Committees recommendations to the City Council and urge the Council to accept the draft S/CAP 3-Year Work Plan and the staffing recommendations.

Personally as the owner of a single family residence the first Outstanding Need described by the Committee is my top concern -

We need to reassure people and businesses that there will be sufficient, low cost energy and that our electric utility will be able to provide the high levels of reliability and resilience we need and expect.

I agree with the Committee on the rest of Outstanding needs as key items for consideration.

Regards,

Virginia Van Kuran  
879 Garland Drive  
Palo Alto, CA 94303

**From:** [Larry Klein](#)  
**To:** [Council, City](#)  
**Subject:** Agenda item # 19  
**Date:** Sunday, December 12, 2021 12:52:42 PM

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I urge your support for a vigorous program to convert all buildings in Palo Alto from using gas to using electricity.

In your consideration of such measures I hope you will:

**Act Boldly.** Climate change is our greatest challenge. The world, particularly industrialized nations, has been slow to respond. The time for half measures is over.

In this connection please consider the plan adopted just last month by the City Council of Ithaca, New York (population 30, 000) to convert all of its city's buildings, public and private, residential and non-residential, from gas to electricity by 2030 using a variety of funding sources other than the city budget (\$100 million has already been contributed). Ithaca is the home of Cornell University (Student population 23,000) and thus has some similarities to Palo Alto/Stanford.

**Move Swiftly.** Let's not get bogged down in the usual Palo Alto process or in environmental reviews. Set an accelerated time table and make sure the staff lives up to it. Each day in Palo Alto, on average, four or five gas heated water tanks come to the end of their useful lives. This is the best time to convert a gas hot water system to electric. Let's not lose many more of these opportunities.

**Use Mandates.** Getting people to act voluntarily is of course always preferable to mandating behavior. But sometimes, as shown in the Covid vaccination situation, mandates are necessary. Climate Change is emphatically such a situation.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Klein  
Mayor, City of Palo Alto, 1984-85, 1989, 2008  
City Council Member, 1981-89, 2005- 2014.