



The United States must electrify household heating to meet key energy and climate goals. Space heating accounts for over 40% of annual U.S. household energy use. **Heat pumps – all-electric, super-efficient temperature control appliances that can both heat and cool indoor spaces - are the key to decarbonizing heating, especially as the grid becomes increasingly renewable.** Currently, the majority of homes use furnaces and boilers to burn 'dirty' fuels like methane, oil, and propane (51%), while another 24% use expensive, inefficient electric resistance.

In 2022, The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), became the biggest climate investment in US history. It funded electrification efforts to increase the widespread adoption of heat pumps; however, these resources are insufficient to drive the progress needed. CLASP modeling shows that **IRA heat pump rebates and tax credits will convert 1 million or 2% of furnaces to heat pumps over 10 years** – far less than what is needed to confront the climate emergency.

For comparison, the 25 member states of the US Climate Alliance (USCA) – representing approximately 55% of the US population and 60% of the country's economy – have a collective goal of 20 million heat pump installations by 2030. **State level action is the key for supercharging heat pump deployment – driving the future of residential building decarbonization.**

Accelerating the pace of heat pump adoption is a critical step in confronting climate change. State and local government action must further accelerate heat pump adoption to secure the greatest benefits of the transition for communities and the planet.

TAKE ACTION

STATE POLICYMAKERS AND REGULATORS

- **Drive Public Access and Participation.** Improved public access and participation, especially from underserved communities, will increase the reach, effectiveness, and equitable decision making of state and local energy programs.
- **Develop Clean Heat Standards (CHS).** A CHS is a performance standard, like a renewable energy standard for electric utilities, that applies to wholesale providers of fossil fuels used for heating. A CHS requires the providers to deliver a gradually increasing percentage of low-emission “clean heat” resources to customers, promoting the adoption of cleaner and more efficient alternatives such as heat pumps.
- **Replace Air Conditioners with Heat Pumps.** Replacing one-way ACs that only cool with two-way heat pumps that both heat and cool, allows decarbonization at a lower cost. Heat pumps provide CO₂ reductions even when a home’s existing heating system is retained as backup.
- **Energy Efficiency (EE) Programs.** EE programs run by utilities or independent administrators can be refocused and expanded to promote heat pumps, including eliminating fuel-switching prohibitions, creating detailed roadmaps to ramp up program size, and ending incentives for gas equipment.
- **Workforce Training and Development.** A shortage of technicians with the expertise to install and maintain heat pumps threatens to hinder their adoption. States will need to focus on improving the skills of their workforce, including the development of training for existing employees and apprentice-based programs.

ADVOCATES

- **Advise state and local leadership on their role in the heat pump transition under the IRA.** Highlight the policies and programs that will further accelerate heat pump adoption and help address barriers like public perception, workforce capacity, etc.
- **Support state and local governments in identifying and implementing strategic policies and initiatives for heat pump adoption that are suited to their local needs and concerns.** Explore CLASP and RAP’s [recent analysis](#) to learn more about available tools.
- **Guide knowledge sharing between states and municipalities.** Help policymakers learn from peer experience and share best practices to increase familiarity, acceptance, and adoption of heat pumps.
- **Drive public awareness about the benefits of heat pumps and the available financial resources.** Empower consumers with the tools and information needed join the transition.

To read more about these and other programs, access the full paper here:
<https://www.raponline.org/knowledge-center/accelerating-heat-pump-adoption-through-the-inflation-reduction-act-ira-and-complementary-policies/>

