



BOARD OF YAKIMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Agenda Request Form (ARF)

Deliver completed ARF and finalized agenda item to the Clerk or Deputy Clerk of the Board at the Yakima County Commissioners' Office, Room 232.

Prepared by: Marivel Garcia - Building Official

Department: Public Services - Building

Requested Agenda Date: 2/25/2025

Presenting: Lisa Freund

Board of County Commissioners Record Assigned

#

042-2025

Action Requested – Check Applicable Box:

☒ PASS RESOLUTION

☐ PASS ORDINANCE

☐ ISSUE PROCLAMATION

☐ EXECUTE or AMEND

AGREEMENT, CONTRACT, or GRANT

☐ OTHER _____

Document Title:

IN THE MATTER OF PROTECTING ACCESS TO NATURAL GAS FOR HOMES AND BUSINESSES TO COMPLY WITH INITIATIVE No. 2066 - PUBLIC SERVICES BUILDING & FIRE SAFETY

Background Information:


On November 5, 2024, Washington state voters approved Initiative No. 2066, effective December 5, 2024, which repeals restrictions on natural gas use in heating and appliances for residential and commercial buildings. The initiative prohibits counties from penalizing or discouraging gas use. In response, Yakima County has adopted provisions from the 2021 International Residential and Energy Conservation Codes, permitting combustion-fueled systems without penalties. All other building codes will remain unchanged.

Describe Fiscal Impact:

N/A

Summary & Recommendation:

It is recommended to adopt provisions from the 2021 International Residential and Energy Conservation Codes to align with Initiative No. 2066, maintain all other existing building codes, and implement the resolution on March 3, 2025.

 m.g.

Department Head/Elected Official Signature

Corporate Counsel Initial (for Agreements Only)

BOARD OF YAKIMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS RESOLUTION

**IN THE MATTER OF PROTECTING
ACCESS TO NATURAL GAS FOR HOMES
AND BUSINESSES TO COMPLY WITH
INITIATIVE No. 2066 - PUBLIC SERVICES
BUILDING & FIRE SAFETY**

RESOLUTION NO.

042-2025

WHEREAS, on November 5, 2024, Washington State voters approved Initiative Measure No. 2066, which became effective on December 5, 2024; **and**,

WHEREAS, Initiative No. 2066 repeals regulations that discourage the use of natural gas, eliminating penalties for its use in heating and appliances in residential and commercial buildings; **and**,

WHEREAS, Initiative No. 2066 Sec. 10 states that a county shall not in any way prohibit, penalize, or discourage the use of gas for any form of heating, or for uses related to any appliance or equipment, in any building; **and**,

WHEREAS, The Preface of the 2021 Washington State Amended International Codes specifies that local jurisdictions, such as counties and cities, are restricted from altering certain provisions of the State Building Code, including the State Energy Code (WAC 51-11R for residential and WAC 51-11C for commercial buildings); **and**,

WHEREAS, the current versions of the 2021 WSEC-R and WSEC-C discriminate against the use of natural gas appliances by unfavorably weighting any credits against the use of efficient natural gas appliances; **and**,

WHEREAS, Chapter 11 of the 2021 International Residential Code and the 2021 International Energy Conservation Code set forth nationally recognized energy efficiency requirements while permitting the use of combustion-fueled heating systems and appliances without penalizing gas use, ensuring compliance with Initiative No. 2066; **now, therefore**,

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Board of Yakima County Commissioners that Yakima County adopts the energy efficiency provisions from Chapter 11 of the 2021 International Residential Code and the 2021 International Energy Conservation Code as alternative pathways to compliance for energy conservation design in residential and commercial construction, which permit the use of combustion-fueled heating equipment and appliances without penalty, in line with Initiative No. 2066. All other applicable state, county, and federal construction and building operation codes will remain in effect. This resolution is **effective March 3, 2025**, and will remain in force unless state regulations are amended to address the natural gas restrictions repealed by Initiative No. 2066.

BOARD OF YAKIMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS RESOLUTION

DONE FEB 25 2025

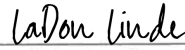


Kyle Curtis, Chair

Attest:



Julie Lawrence, Clerk of the Board *or*
Erin Franklin, Deputy Clerk of the Board



LaDon Linde, Commissioner



Amanda McKinney, Commissioner
*Constituting the Board of County Commissioners
for Yakima County, Washington*

