



CITIZENS UTILITY BOARD

Fighting for Illinois Consumers

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Consumer, Clean Energy Advocates Join Carbondale Leaders to Discuss How Southern Illinoisans Can Transition to Cheaper, Cleaner Ways to Heat Homes

Carbondale, Illinois—Top consumer and environmental advocates in Southern Illinois will host a first-of-its kind event to discuss how “electrification” home improvements will help people lower their energy costs, protect their health and reduce their carbon footprint. This topic is of growing interest to people across Illinois and state leaders who are concerned about high heating bills. This free event is:

**Homes of the Future in Southern Illinois:
Important Transitions for Cleaner Air in Your Home and Community
5-7 p.m., Wednesday Sept. 27**

Carbondale Civic Center
200 S. Illinois Ave.
Carbondale, IL

Please register here: sc.org/cleanheatcarbondale

Refreshments will be served. The discussion will be led by Illinois Clean Jobs Coalition members Sierra Club Illinois; Natural Resources Defense Council; Faith in Place and the Citizens Utility Board (CUB), along with local leaders: the City of Carbondale; Carbondale United; NAACP, Carbondale Chapter; the Black Graduate Greek Council of Carbondale; the Sustainability Office of Southern Illinois University; and the Shawnee Group of Sierra Club Illinois.

“Even if you don’t know the first thing about ‘electrification,’ we hope to make this a very accessible introduction so consumers can learn about taking steps for cleaner, cheaper ways to heat their homes,” said **CUB Environmental Outreach Coordinator Scott Allen**. “Everybody loves lowering their costs, and it’s even better when those actions are good for the planet.”

Building electrification replaces equipment like furnaces and gas stoves that run on fossil fuels like propane and gas with their electric counterparts. While the transition away from fossil fuels is a long process that will take extensive planning, building electrification is gaining in popularity due to its affordability and positive implications for health and climate impacts.

Affordability: Heating bills have gotten more and more expensive thanks to reckless gas utility spending and the price volatility of fossil fuels. Electrification offers a way to contain costs through technology like heat pumps, which are 50-60 percent more efficient than traditional furnaces or boilers, and other more efficient electric appliances.

Health: There is growing evidence of the health dangers associated with gas stoves. A recent [Stanford University study](#) indicated that gas stoves pollute homes with higher concentrations of cancer-causing benzene than secondhand smoke.

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Climate: As extreme weather events get more volatile in Illinois and across the country, the need to reduce the use of fossil fuels that cause carbon pollution and contribute to many of these extreme weather events is more critical than ever.

Passage of strong energy legislation in recent years, including the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA) in Illinois and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) in Washington, gives consumers the opportunity to take advantage of generous financial incentives to electrify their homes.

“Landmark climate legislation like CEJA and the IRA allows Illinois to act on investments in electrification that are crucial to our livable future,” said **Jane Cogie, local resident and member of the Shawnee Group of Sierra Club Illinois**. “Our state policy works hand in hand with federal legislation to allow Illinois residents, including my neighbors in the Greater Carbondale area, to transition rapidly away from the fossil fuels that are polluting our air both inside *and* outside our homes, all at an affordable cost.”

"Climate change has wide-reaching impacts and we are changing how we live each and every day. We hope to provide space for people to ask questions about how these impacts may reach into their homes and how they can find ways to make their homes healthier for themselves and their communities," said **Rev. Wade Halva, Southern Illinois Outreach Coordinator for Faith in Place**. “We want to hear from southern Illinois residents about their questions and concerns that are unique to how we live in this area.”

“Illinoisans are making it clear they support [policies](#) that decrease our dependence on gas and combat climate change,” said **Madeline Semanisin, Midwest Building Decarbonization Advocate, Climate & Clean Energy and People & Communities Programs**. “To meet our [state commitment](#) of net zero emissions by 2050, which is necessary to avoid the most catastrophic climate events, we must cut emissions from our homes and buildings. State and local municipalities are paving the way, proposing innovative solutions to slash emissions from buildings which will improve indoor air quality and lesser energy burdens. Please join us at the event to learn more about building electrification.”

Attendees will be able to ask questions and are encouraged to RSVP via sc.org/cleanheatcarbondale.

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Faith in Place is the proud affiliate of Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin Interfaith Power & Light. Faith in Place empowers people of diverse faiths and spiritualities to be leaders in advancing environmental and racial justice—providing resources to educate, connect and advocate for healthier communities For more information about Faith in Place’s work, please visit: www.faithinplace.org.

The Citizens Utility Board (CUB) is Illinois’ leading nonprofit utility watchdog group. Created by the Illinois Legislature, CUB opened its doors in 1984 to represent the interests of residential and small-business utility customers. Since then, CUB has saved consumers more than \$20 billion by helping to block rate hikes and secure refunds. For more information, call CUB’s Consumer Hotline at 1-800-669-5556 or visit CUB’s award-winning website, www.CitizensUtilityBoard.org.

NRDC (the Natural Resources Defense Council) combines the power of more than 3 million members and online activists with the expertise of some 700 scientists, lawyers, and other environmental specialists to confront the climate crisis, protect the planet’s wildlife and wild places, and to ensure the rights of all people to clean air, clean water, and healthy communities.

Sierra Club Illinois is the local Chapter of Sierra Club—America’s largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization, with more than 3.8 million members and supporters. In addition to protecting every person’s right to get outdoors and access the healing power of nature, the Sierra Club works to promote clean energy, safeguard the health of our communities, protect wildlife, and preserve our remaining wild places through grassroots activism, public education, lobbying, and legal action. For more information about Sierra Club’s work in Illinois, visit www.sierraclub.org/illinois.

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