
Are architects professionally bound to require electrification?

Architecture New
York State
Magazine -
Challenging the
Perception of the
Profession
(July 2026 issue)

Valerie J. Amor, Founder + AOV
Drawing Conclusions LLC



NCARB is very clear

NCARB, the architectural licensing board, facilitates the licensure + credentialing of architects

“protect the health, safety and welfare of the public”



I get it

I like to cook the
way I always have -
how else do I flame
char my tortilla?

Hotel Marcel kitchen, first Passive House certified
hotel in the U.S., fully electric credit: VJAmor 2026

The Obvious

Gas causes health problems



The American Lung Association cites very clearly that gas combustion poses a health hazard to indoor air quality. Emitting substantial amounts of carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen oxides (NOx), particulate matter (PM), and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) can contribute to premature mortality, heart disease and stroke, asthma, increased risk of illness, COPD, lung cancer, type 2 diabetes, premature birth and respiratory infection.

An equity issue.

"Children, other susceptible populations such as people living with asthma or cardiopulmonary diseases, pregnant people and older individuals, people of color and people in low wealth or rural communities are the most vulnerable to detrimental health effects from exposure to pollutants from residential combustion.

Under-resourced and underserved communities often have little control over the fuel options available

to them, or the condition and healthfulness of the available housing. Living spaces may be small, crowded, and poorly ventilated. Appliances may be old and not functioning properly. Resource limitations may prevent both homeowners and renters from fixing indoor air problems, including selecting cleaner sources of energy for heating and cooking."

American Lung Association, The Health Impacts of Combustion in Homes, January 2023,

<https://www.lung.org/getmedia/da394c1a-200e-4c89-9947-7ecb1a26571a/The-Health-Impact-of-Combustion-in-Homes.pdf>

So, where are we at?

The Timeline:

July 2019 - City of Berkley passes ordinance prohibiting installation of natural gas infrastructure in newly constructed buildings

December 2021 - NYC [Local Law 154](#) requires all-electric new buildings

April 2022 - [Washington State](#) requirement for all-electric heating in its building code

April 2023 - 9th. Circuit Appeals Court strikes down Berkeley gas ban

April 2024 - Unsuccessful appeals, City of Berkeley voluntary drops gas or

July 2025 - [New York State All-Electric Buildings Act](#) all-electric new construction be
Phased approach - under 7 stories beginning in 2026 + all new buildings by 2029

June 2026 - NYC LL154 + NY State Act challenged in court, upheld by [U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit](#) in favor of New York State and New York City.

July 2, 2026 - San Francisco gas ban in buildings adopted under NOx emissions-based legal strategy [reaffirmed by the 9th. Circuit](#)

The Players:

City of Berkley +
80 California
cities
San Francisco
New York City
New York State
Washington
State

Are we up to the challenge?

Inspire and empower architects to improve society and transform the world with a goal of climate action for human and ecological health

[AIA Strategic Plan 2021-25](#)

“AIA ... elevating architects as visible, influential decision makers—shaping policies, investments, and outcomes that affect communities.”

[AIA Strategic Plan 2026-30](#)

NCARB stated responsibility of the licensed architect to **protect the public health, safety and welfare.**

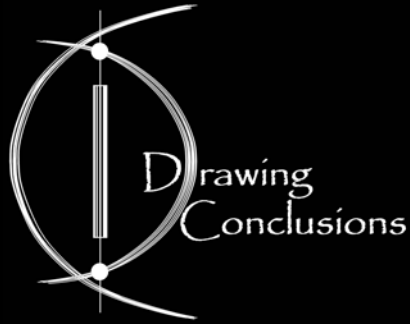
NCARB

Ability to account for our actions

- Decline to bid on projects that require fossil fuel
- Refuse to participate on a project that includes fossil fuels
- Pull out of projects that change from fully electric to include fossil fuels

Hard questions

- ? Do we self-regulate?
Personal responsibility
- ? Would it be mandatory and enforced by NCARB?
- ? What would be the legal basis?
- ? What would be the professional response?
- ? Would it be a condition for membership in the AIA?



Valerie J. Amor, Founder + AOV

Drawing Conclusions LLC

valeriejamor@gmail.com

954.701.0698

Thank you! fun fact, no one ever asks me what AOV stands for