

Quebec phases out residential oil-fired heating

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The Quebec government is banning the installation of oil-fired heating systems in all new construction projects as of December 31, 2021.

In addition, installing an oil furnace or replacing one with a fossil fuel furnace will be prohibited by December 31, 2023. Repairing an oil-fuelled heating system more than 20 years old, or an oil-fuelled water heater over 10 years old will also be banned. The province says these measures will help it reach its target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from heating buildings by 50 per cent by 2030.

According to the *Montreal Gazette*, almost 200,000 households in Quebec use oil-fuelled heating systems.

Quebec's 2030 Plan for a Green Economy: Framework policy on electrification and the fight against climate change outlines how the province will replace fossil fuels with clean electricity without significant price increases "We need to electrify our transportation, our buildings, and our businesses," says Premier François Legault. "The resulting benefits will be significant for everyone. Every Quebecer will be saving thousands of dollars. We also need to make better use of energy and exploit the full potential of bioenergies. Along with the electrification of the economy, energy efficiency and other sources of renewable energy (like green hydrogen) can also generate wealth and productivity for our province."

Legault says the goal is "to encourage companies to focus on optimizing energy efficiency and greenhouse gas emissions, and building that optimization into the design right from the start. Innovation will be supported to design solutions that don't yet exist, particularly when it comes to developing new, more carbon-efficient industrial processes." In addition, he says "the complementary nature of Québec's electricity and natural gas systems will be a vector for success that will maximize economic benefits while minimizing costs for customers. The government will also focus on the greening of natural gas."

The report notes, "The partial conversion from natural gas to electricity will be part of a comprehensive, balanced approach that is based on the complementarity of the electrical and gas grids. Fully electrifying heating would not be ideal for Québec. It would create a significant peak demand issue at certain times during the winter, when electricity

consumption is greatest. Furthermore, it is worth noting that electricity cannot be the only option for all commercial and institutional buildings because of certain constraints. As a result, the conversion effort will primarily aim to maximize the electrification potential of heating in Québec while minimizing costs for customers.”