



PSR (Physicians for Social Responsibility) Colorado advocates at the local and state level for a livable environment with clean air, a stable climate and clean safe energy. Our Healthy Electric Homes campaign supports legislation, regulations, and other efforts that reduce consumer needs for burning fossil fuels, including promoting high efficiency appliances for homes.

Heat pumps and induction cooktops work without the need to burn fossil fuels. Heat pumps also provide cooling in our increasingly hot summers. Switching to all electric appliances reduces the risk of respiratory disease, asthma, heart attack and certain cancers.

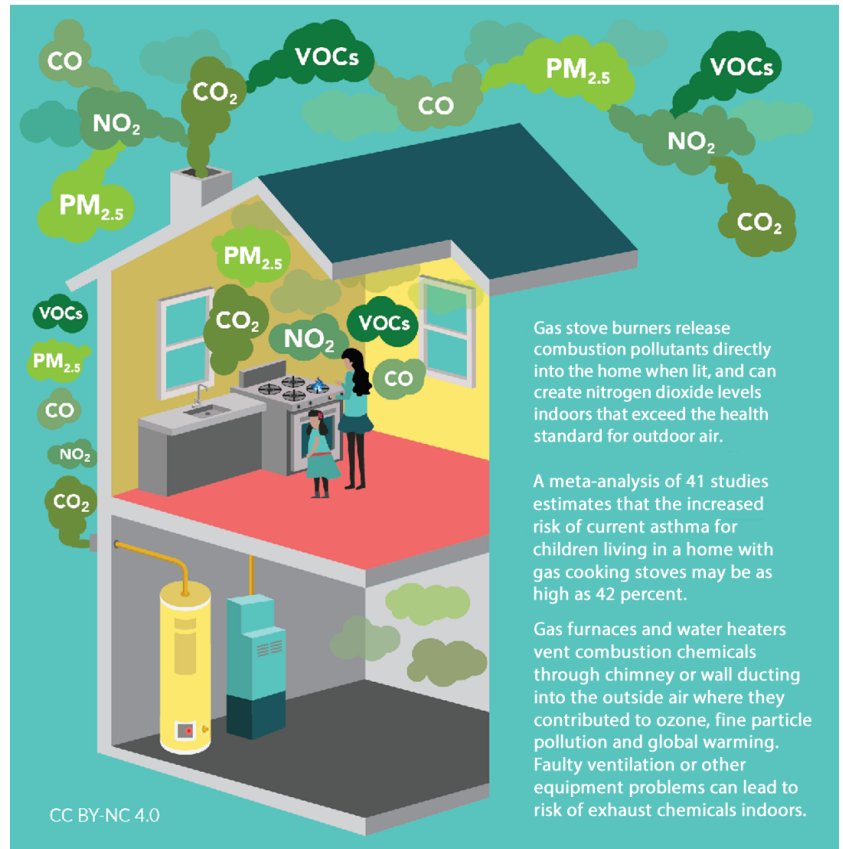
Indoor Air: Burning gas (methane) is not clean. When we burn gas indoors, we increase exposure to potentially dangerous levels of indoor air pollution.

Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) exposure weakens lungs and reduces the lung's ability to absorb oxygen.

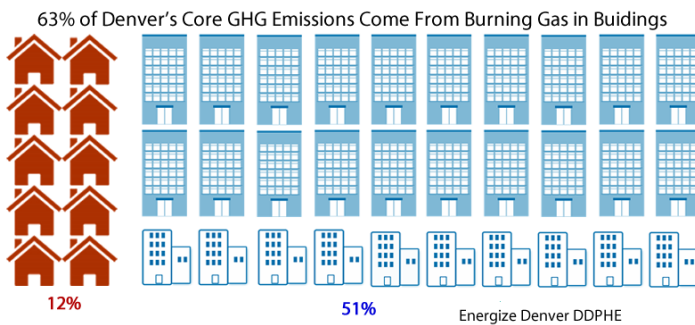
Particulate matter increases the risk of heart attacks, strokes, worsens respiratory disease including asthma, and has been associated with increased infant mortality. In children, particulates are associated with decreased lung growth.

Carbon monoxide – reduces the blood's ability to carry oxygen through the body. It causes headaches, dizziness, confusion, and is fatal at high concentrations. The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment reports that in 2018, unintentional carbon monoxide poisoning led to 407 emergency room visits in Colorado.

Safety: Electrically powered heat pumps and stovetops free us from the dangers associated with gas such as explosions and fires. According to researchers at the Colorado School of Public Health, between 2006 and 2015 Colorado had at least 116 fires and explosions at oil and gas operations. Another investigation revealed that in 2015 nearly 1300 gas pipelines in Colorado were damaged during excavations. In April 2017, a deadly explosion occurred in Firestone due to an abandoned well and pipelines under a residential development. In July 2021, the explosion of a home in West Denver was attributed to a gas leak. In September 2020, a home exploded in Gypsum following a report of an underground gas leak. In April 2021, a pressurized outdoor gas leak forced some in Aurora to evacuate their homes.



Climate: The world's climate is heating dangerously, and we are seeing the effects across our country and around the world. In Colorado we are seeing hotter summers, more forest fires, flooding, landslides and less snow.



Emissions from burning fossil fuels contribute to ozone and climate change. In Denver, burning fossil fuels in homes and buildings amounts to 63% of core GHG emissions. To combat health threats now and assure our kids and grandkids of a livable planet in the future, we need to stop burning fossil fuels.

Poorer communities suffer most from burning gas in homes:

Generally, the smaller the home, the higher the indoor air pollution. Lack of maintenance of gas stoves, furnaces and water heaters or poor venting increase exposure. Outdoor air pollution from NO₂ is greater around freeways and other industrial sites. Lack of money and programs to incentivize electric alternatives/retrofits are barriers for low-income families.

A 2006 article reported that children in homes with gas appliances suffer worse asthma symptoms causing days of missed school, missed work, more sick days, school truancy issues, and emotional, social, and mental health issues. And a study of inner city pre-school children in mostly low income row homes, reported that each 20 point increase in indoor NO₂ concentration was associated with a 10% increase in the number of days of coughing and a 15% increase in number of days of limited speech due to wheezing.

What Are Our Goals?

PSR Colorado supports and advocates for policies, regulation and legislation on the local and state level that:

- Call for no gas infrastructure in new construction;
- Incentivize behind the meter switch to electric;
- Provide for low cost electric retrofitting for low income families;
- Target homes in need of efficiency upgrades;
- Support efforts to set minimum energy efficiency standards for rental properties.

We provide education on the health benefits of heat pumps and electrification for:

- Contractors and their customers;
- Homeowners and renters;
- Affordable housing advocates;
- Health professionals;
- Community and professional organizations.

Want to learn more or volunteer?

Contact: info@PSRColorado.org for more information and study citations

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