

Accelerating Electrification of California's Multifamily Buildings  
POLICY CONSIDERATIONS AND TECHNICAL GUIDELINES

STOPWASTE  
ASSOCIATION FOR ENERGY AFFORDABILITY (AEA)  
May 2021

**STOPWASTE**  
at home • at work • at school

**AEA** ASSOCIATION FOR ENERGY AFFORDABILITY

## Accelerating Electrification of CA's Multifamily Buildings

Policy Consideration and Technical Guidelines

May 2021

STOPWASTE 1

1

## Agenda

- Background
- Team intros
- Report overview
- Q&A
  - *Slides will be provided, along with recording*

STOPWASTE 2

2

## Background

- Funded by CEC Local Government Challenge Grant
  - <https://www.stopwaste.org/accelerating-multifamily-building-upgrades>
- Part 1 - Policy context and considerations, for policy makers
- Part 2 – Functional technical guidelines, for implementers
- 80/20 rule



3

## The Team



Jack Atchison - AEA



Aubrey Dority - AEA



Ben Cooper – StopWaste



Heather Larson - StopWaste



Nick Dirr - AEA



Jennifer Roberts - Editor

4

## Part 1 – The Value Proposition of Electrification in Multifamily Housing

---

- Existing Policy and Initiatives
- Factors Specific to MF
- Policy Considerations
- Case Studies (2)

5

## Existing Policy and Initiatives

---

- SB 350, SB 1477, AB 3232, AB1232
- For local policies and ordinances, see recent TRC report for Menlo Park [here](#)



6

## Factors Specific to MF

- **MF housing is multifaceted**
  - Size and configuration
  - Ownership type
  - HVAC and DHW systems – central and unitary
- **Affordable housing has subsectors**
  - Deed-restricted
  - NOAH



Trishia Caguiat and Kathy Lawton of the City of Susan City



STOPWASTE

7

7

## Policy Considerations

1. Incentivize electrical infrastructure upgrades
2. Offset capacity increases with EE gains
3. Take into account non-energy benefits
4. Continue to address improvement of in-unit spaces
5. Coordinate incentive offerings across multitude of funding sources



CALIFORNIA LOW INCOME WEATHERIZATION PROGRAM  
FOR MULTIFAMILY PROPERTIES



STOPWASTE

8

8

## Case Studies

**ALMOND COURT**  
Wasco, CA

Owner: Self-Help Enterprises  
Year built: 1996  
Type: Low-rise multifamily  
Sector: Affordable rental  
Units: 36  
Size: 45,000 sq. ft.  
Program participation: Low Income Weatherization Program (LIWP)

**PROJECT SCOPE**

- Heat pump water heaters
- High efficiency ducted heat pumps
- Ductwork sealed with Aerosol
- Attic air sealed and insulated
- ENERGY STAR washing machines and refrigerators
- Dual-pane windows
- Comprehensive LED lighting upgrade
- Low-flow aerators and showerheads
- 110 kW solar PV system

**LINK TO COMPLETE CASE STUDY:**  
<https://camultifamilyenergyefficiency.org/case-studies/case-studies-almond-court/>



**ENERGY AND COST SAVINGS**  
(Confirmed efficiency savings plus projected PV savings)

- 44% reduction in actual resident energy use (combined BTU savings)
- 18% cost savings in resident utility bills from energy efficiency and electrification measures
- \$830 average bill savings per unit
- 72% total site savings on BTU basis
- 91 metric tons CO2 reduced

Figure 1. Almond Court Case Study

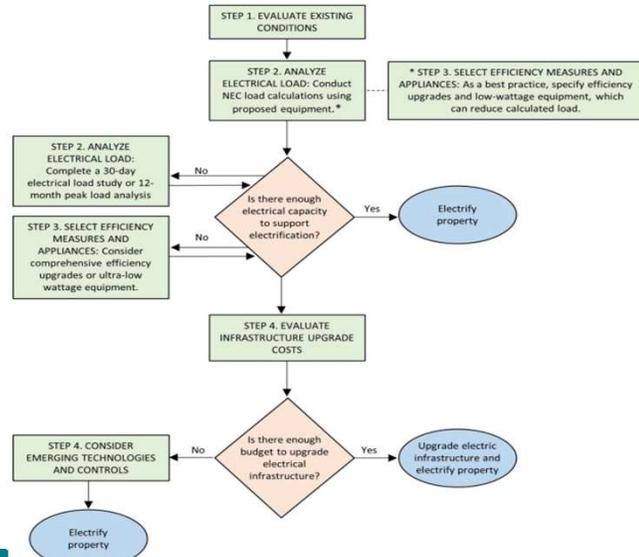
Table 1. Savings from Example Multifamily Electrification Projects in California

Property Name	Combined Site BTU Savings	Electricity Savings	Gas Savings	Combined \$ Savings	GHG Savings
205 Jones	40%	-82%	48%	31%	34%
Padre	37%	-6%	53%	27%	30%
Marlton Manor	27%	4%	35%	49%	23%
ArdenAire	64%	-33%	89%	36%	51%
Cascade Village	50%	-84%	66%	25%	41%
North Park	32%	18%	45%	23%	28%
<b>Average</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>-31%</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>35%</b>

9

## Part 2 – Technical Considerations for the Electrification of Existing MF Bldgs

- Electricity fundamentals
- Cost-Efficient Electrification Overview (Decision Tree)
- 4 step process



10

## Step 1 – Evaluate Existing Conditions

- Typical existing infrastructure (80/20 rule)
- Planned modernization
- Data collection, usable 3pg form:
  - Main panel and subpanel capacities
  - Equipment specifications
  - Wiring types
- Identifying elect. infrastructure

Data Collection	Data Applications
<b>APARTMENT AND COMMON AREA LOADS</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Wall construction: ___ inches of insulation <input type="checkbox"/> No cavity/difficult access (brick, lath-plaster, etc.)* <input type="checkbox"/> Ceiling construction: ___ inches of insulation <input type="checkbox"/> Has accessible cavity* <input type="checkbox"/> Floor: ___ inches of insulation <input type="checkbox"/> Slab <input type="checkbox"/> Window glazing: <input type="checkbox"/> Single pane <input type="checkbox"/> Dual pane <input type="checkbox"/> Window frame: <input type="checkbox"/> Metal <input type="checkbox"/> Wood <input type="checkbox"/> Vinyl or fiberglass	
<input type="checkbox"/> Primary lighting type: <input type="checkbox"/> Incandescent <input type="checkbox"/> Fluorescent <input type="checkbox"/> LED (1) <input type="checkbox"/> Do residents report tripping electrical breakers? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If so, when? _____ (2)	(1) Extra capacity may be gained by upgrading to LEDs if lights are not already efficient. (2) If certain breakers frequently trip, their circuits may be overloaded or have safety issues. (3) Knowing which appliances use gas, and how much they use, can help inform calculations of how much electricity use will be added once these appliances are converted to electric. Keep in mind, existing gas appliances tend to be oversized, so the best practice is to resize when installing new electrical appliances.
<input type="checkbox"/> Range: <input type="checkbox"/> Gas <input type="checkbox"/> Electric <input type="checkbox"/> Water heating BTU output: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Gas <input type="checkbox"/> Electric <input type="checkbox"/> In unit <input type="checkbox"/> Central <input type="checkbox"/> Heating type: <input type="checkbox"/> Gas <input type="checkbox"/> Electric <input type="checkbox"/> Hydronic <input type="checkbox"/> Steam <input type="checkbox"/> Ducted <input type="checkbox"/> Heating output: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Cooling output: _____ (3)	

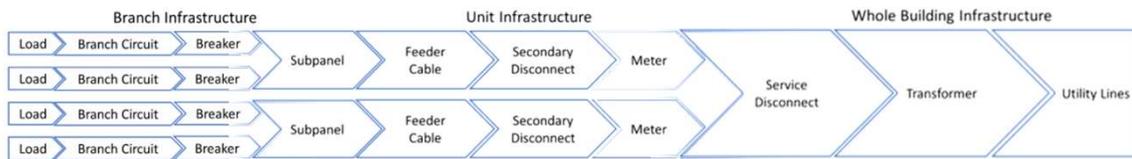


Figure 8. Electrical Infrastructure Sequence

11

## Helpful “real-world” photos throughout

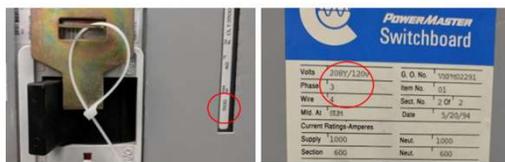


Figure 20. Service Disconnect and Switchboard of a Large Multifamily Building



Figure 23. Pole-Mounted Transformer

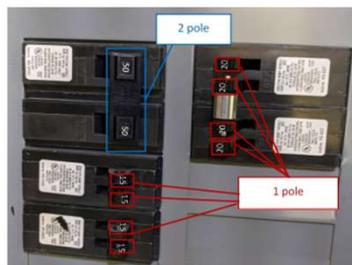


Figure 11. Panel Showing Single- and Dual-Pole Breakers

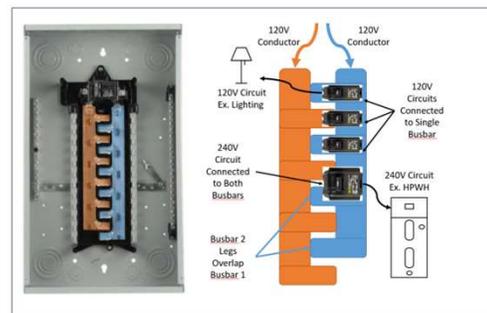


Figure 14. Photograph and Diagram of Inside of a Subpanel  
 (Square D, 2020) (Square D, 2020) (Saltzman) (Murray, 2020)

12

## Step 2 – Analyze Electrical Load

- NEC deemed electrical load calculation; 2 examples fully detailed
- NEC electrical load monitoring study
- References in works cited and appendix

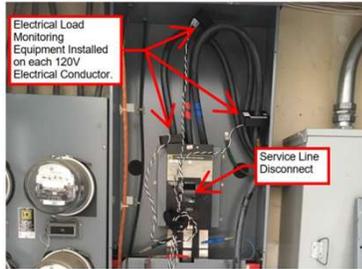


Figure 26. Load Monitoring Equipment

Residential Dwelling Unit Load Calculation - NEC section 220			
Dwelling Unit Area	800 ft <sup>2</sup>		
<b>Step 1 - General Loads Per NEC 220.16</b>			
Deemed Lighting Load Value: 3.0 Volt Amps (VA) per square foot	= 2,400 VA		
	Quantity	NEC Deemed VA Value	
Kitchen Appliance Circuit	1	1,500	= 1,500 VA
Laundry Appliance Circuit	1	1,500	= 1,500 VA
Small Appliance Circuits	2	1,500	= 3,000 VA
<b>Demand factors:</b>			
First 3 KVA have a demand factor of 100%			3,000 VA
3.1 KVA - 120KVA have a demand factor of 35%			1,800 VA
> 120 KVA has a demand factor of 25%			- VA
			<b>Total = 4,800 VA</b>
<b>Step 2 - HVAC Loads Per NEC 220.85b</b>			
Load added during	Quantity	Appliance Name Plate VA	
3-Ton Mini-split Heat Pump for Heating and Cooling	1	4,000	= 4,000 VA
<b>Demand factors:</b>			
Electric heating or cooling (whichever is larger) has a demand factor of 100%			4,000 VA
Remaining appliance loads first 8 KVA have a demand factor of 100%			- VA
Remainder of all other appliance loads > 8 KVA have a demand factor of 40%			- VA
			<b>Total = 4,000 VA</b>
<b>Step 3 - Electric Cooking Loads Per NEC 220.55</b>			
	Quantity	Appliance Name Plate VA	
Electric Cooking Range and Stove/Top	1	14,000	= 14,000 VA
<b>Demand factors:</b>			
Electric Cooking Appliance has a demand factor of 80%			11,200 VA
			<b>Total = 11,200 VA</b>
<b>Step 4 - Add the Results from Step 1 through 3 to Calculate Required Volt Amps and Amps</b>			
Total Existing Volt Amps for the Dwelling Unit	16,000 VA		
Total Proposed Volt Amps for the Dwelling Unit with the 3-Ton Mini-split Heat Pump	20,000 VA		
Secondary Disconnect and Feeder Wire Cannot Support the Added Electrical	Single Phase Amp Capacity Requirements	83.71 A	
	In-unit Subpanel Amp Rating	100.00 A	
	Secondary Disconnect and Feeder Wire Amp Rating	75.00 A	

### Notes for Example A

**Step 1: General Loads** are required by the NEC. These are intended to serve small plug-in appliances throughout the dwelling unit.

**Demand factors:** For each load type, demand factors are applied to help simulate the coincidence that all loads will be on at the same time. Different load types have different demand factors deemed by the NEC.

**Step 2: HVAC Loads** have different demand factors and must be calculated separately from general loads. For all NEC load calculations, the calculation must represent the final conditions. In this example, the 3-ton heat pump replaces the existing furnace during electrification.

**Step 3: Electric Cooking** also has different demand factors and must be calculated separately from HVAC Loads and General Loads.

**Step 4: Sum all loads** after demand factors have been applied to determine the total volt amps for the dwelling unit. Divide this number by the volt ratings of the panel/secondary disconnect to determine required amps. In this example, it is being divided by single phase 240V.

13

## Step 3 – Select Efficiency Measures and Appliances

- HVAC efficiency and equipment
- Domestic Hot Water systems
- Lighting, cooking, appliances + misc. equipment
- Includes system-specific considerations: climate, electrical requirements, equipment selection, and efficiency opps.



Existing 3 Ton Split AC + 3 Ton Natural Gas Fueled Furnace



Proposed 2 Ton Mini-split Inverter Driven Heat Pump with Indoor Air Handler

Smaller proposed heat pumps can be installed when envelope efficiency measures are in the scope of work

	Existing	Proposed	Capacity & Infrastructure Savings with Smaller Proposed Heat Pump
Cooling Efficiency (SEER)	13.0	18.0	-
Heating Efficiency	80%	285%	-
Cooling Capacity (Btu/hr)	36,000	28,000	-
Heating Capacity (Btu/hr)	32,000	24,000	-
Watts (VA)	5,610	1,910	+ 3,700
Breaker Size	• 240V 30 Amp Breaker (Outdoor Unit) • 120V 15 Amp Breaker (Indoor Unit)	240V 20 Amp	+ 120V 25 Amp

Figure 30. 1.5 to 3 Ton Split AC Replaced with Heat Pump with Efficiency Measures Applied  
Images and data: (Goodman, 2020) (Goodman, 2020) (Mitsubishi Electric, 2020)

14

## HVAC

- HVAC Efficiency and Equipment
- Design Considerations
  - Envelope Penetrations (Packaged Systems)
  - Location of Outdoor Compressor (Split Systems)
  - Refrigerant Line sets (Split Systems)
  - Cold Ambient Performance
  - Defrost Cycle



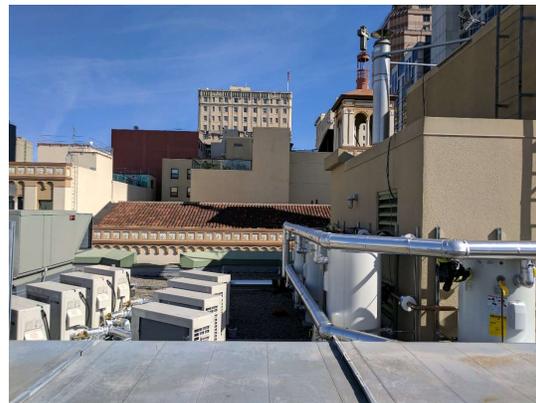
STOPWASTE

15

15

## DHW

- Domestic Hot Water Efficiency and Product Selection
- Residential & Commercial HPWH Considerations
  - Electrical Requirements
  - Equipment Location
  - Cold Ambient Temperature Performance



STOPWASTE

16

16

## Lighting, cooking, appliances and misc. equipment

- **Efficiency Opportunities**
  - Lighting
  - Cooking
  - Laundry
  - Misc. - Fan Efficiency and Pumps
- **Electrification Opportunities**
  - Cooking
  - Laundry
  - Pool/Spa Heaters



Existing Residential Washing Machine and Electric Resistance Clothes Dryer

Proposed Residential Condensing Dryer/Washer Combination

	Existing	Proposed	Capacity & Infrastructure Savings
Total Watts	5,700	1,200	+ 4,500
Breaker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 240V 30 Amp (Dryer)</li> <li>• 120V 15 Amp* (Washing Machine)</li> </ul>	120V 15 Amp*	+ 1 Single Pole Breaker Slot

*\*These efficiency measures are typically not reflected in NEC calcs due to deemed electrical loads*

17

## Step 4 – Evaluate Upgrade Cost and Consider Emerging Alternatives

- **Infrastructure upgrade costs**
- **Emerging alternatives to upgrading electrical infrastructure, current and future use cases**
  - Smart panels and splitters
  - EV dynamic load management

Table 10. Estimated Costs for Electrical Infrastructure Upgrades

Electrical Infrastructure Upgrades	Cost
Add circuits for a new electric appliance	\$500–\$2,000
Upgrade subpanels	\$1,000–\$7,000
Replace disconnects at meter bank	\$1,000–\$3,000
Upsize feeder cable	\$1,000–\$10,000
Convert from single to three phase	\$10,000–\$100,000 (depends on building size)

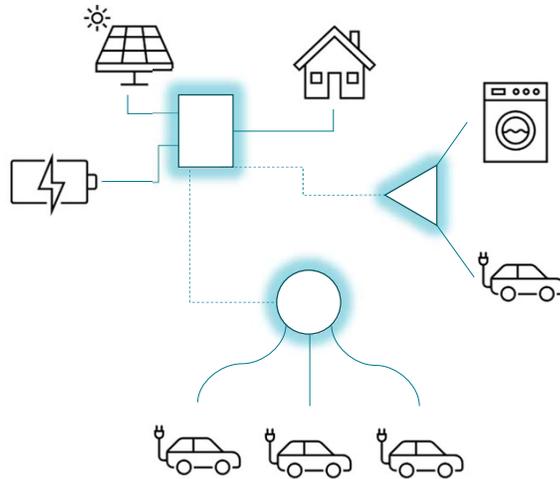
Table 11. Estimated Costs for Utility Service Upgrades

Utility Service Upgrades	Cost
Service line disconnect	\$500–\$5,000
Overhead service connection	\$3,000–\$10,000
Underground service connection	\$10,000–\$50,000
Pole-mount transformer	\$3,000–\$5,000
Pad-mount transformer	\$10,000–\$30,000
Subsurface transformer	\$40,000–\$80,000

18

## Emerging Alternatives

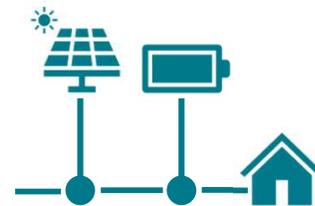
- Smart Panels
- Smart Splitters
- EV dynamic load management
- Dialogue with local code enforcement



19

## Solar PV + Resilience

- Impact of solar PV on electrification
  - Tie in with electrical infrastructure upgrades
  - Types of infrastructure connections
  - Metering types
- Resilience\*
  - Load shifting
  - Power outage/shutoff
  - NZE use potential
  - Hedge against utility rate escalation



*\*Resilience benefits of PV and batteries are mentioned in Part 1. However, resilience strategies and benefits expand well beyond those addressed in this report.*

20

## Appendix A – Product Guides

- Retrofit equipment product guide
  - HPWHs
  - Mini-splits
  - Packaged terminal HPs
- Emerging alternatives product guide
  - Smart panels
  - Smart splitters
  - EV load management

**Table 14. Ductless Mini-Split Heat Pumps (120 V)**  
(Redwood Energy, 2020)

Interior Wall-Mounted Fan Coil	GE Caliber Series AS12CKA	LG Mega (115V) LS-120HKV	Mitsubishi MC-IP12WA	Gree LP (95.12) HP115V18	Carrier 3816AR	Haier
Description	1 Indoor Fan Coil	1 Indoor Fan Coil	1 Indoor Fan Coil	1 Indoor Fan Coil	1 Indoor Fan Coil	1 Indoor Fan Coil
Dimension (in) (HxWxD)	21 x 31 x 10	19 x 28 x 10	22 x 32 x 11	33 x 21 x 13	32 x 21 x 13	28 x 35 x 14
Ref. Type	R410a	R410a	R410a	R410a	R410a	R410a
Ambient Temp. Range (H/C) (F)	-4 - 115	14 - 65 / 14 - 118	-4 - 115	0 - 115	-	-
Power (W)	-	1,140 - 1,090	800 - 1,300	1,955	-	-
Max Amps (A)	-	5.0	5.8	3.2	-	-
Heating Cap. (BTU/h)	12,000	13,000	12,000	9,000, 12.5	-	-
Cooling Cap. (BTU/h)	12,000	12,000	12,000	9,000, 12.0	-	-
Heating (COP)	2.92	2.6	2.9	3.3	-	-
Cooling (COP)	2.92	3.1	2.9	4.67	-	-

**Table 12. Individual (Per Apartment) Heat Pump Water Heaters (240 V)**  
(Redwood Energy, 2020)

Manufacturer and Product Image	Eco2 Systems	Rheem Prestige Hybrid	AO Smith Votes Hybrid	Bradford White AeroTherm	Stalbel Eltron Accura
Description	Large Volume Cold Climate CO2 Refrigerant	Hybrid Heat Pump and Resistance			
Gallons	49, 63, 819	40, 50, 65, 80	30, 46, 80	50, 80	58, 80
Voltage (V)	208/240	208/240	208/240	208/240	220/240
Dimension (in)	27.5H x 35W x 12D	74H x 24Diam.	69H x 27Diam.	71H x 25Diam.	60H x 27Diam.
Ref. Type	R744 (CO2)	R134a	R134a	R134a	R134a
Ambient Temp. Range (F)	-30 - 110 (cold climate)	37 - 145	45 - 109	35 - 120	42 - 108 / 6 - 42
Power (W)	-	4,500	550 - 4,500	650 - 1,500	-
Max Amps (A)	13	15 - 30	30	30	15
Heating (BTU/h)	15,400	4,200	-	-	5,800
Heating (COP)	5.0	3.55 - 3.70	3.06 - 3.61	2.40 - 3.39	3.05 - 3.39
Energy Factor	3.09 - 3.84	-	-	-	-

21

## Appendix B – NEC Deemed Load Calculations

- Step-by-step calculation process overview
- Load calc references
- Example dwelling unit load calc worksheet
- Example calcs: laundry room and whole building

**Whole Building Residential Load Calculation - NEC Section 220**

Total Dwelling Unit Area	4,937 ft <sup>2</sup>	
Number of Dwelling Units	4	
<b>Step 1 - Lighting Loads Per NEC 220.12</b>		
Deemed Lighting Load Value: 3.0 Volt Amps (VA) per square foot		= 14,811 VA
<b>Step 2 - Sum up General Loads and HVAC Loads</b>		
	Quantity	NEC Deemed VA Value
Small Appliance Circuits (2 per apartment)	8	1,500 = 12,000 VA
Laundry Circuits (1 per apartment)	4	1,500 = 6,000 VA
Electric Cooking Range and Stove Top (1 per apartment)	4	7,680 = 30,720 VA
<b>Load added during electrification</b>		
New Space Conditioning Heat Pumps (1 per apartment)	4	9,000 = 36,000 VA
Garbage disposals (1 per apartment)	4	1,200 = 4,800 VA
<b>Step 3 - Apply Whole Building Demand Factors per NEC Table 220.84</b>		
<b>Demand factors:</b>		
Total VA has a demand factor of 45% because the property has 3-5 dwelling units		46,949 VA
		<b>Total = 46,949 VA</b>
Total Existing Volt Amps for the Multifamily Building 30,749 VA		
Total Proposed Volt Amps for the Multifamily Building with New Space Conditioning Heat Pumps 46,949 VA		
<b>Single Phase Amp Capacity Requirements</b>		
195.62 A		
<b>Service Line Disconnect and Feeder Wire Amp Rating</b>		
200.00 A		

Figure 34. Example NEC Load Calculation: Whole Multifamily Building

22

## Appendix C – Flagged Electrical Infrastructure

- Existing building conditions that directly impact electrification
- Explanation of each condition and why it matters
- Actions to address

### Appendix C: Flagged Electrical Infrastructure

In the Data Collection Template (Figure 7), electrical infrastructure conditions that may increase a project’s complexity are flagged with an asterisk. This table provides more information about those conditions and the relative ease or difficulty they present for electrification.

Key to electrification complexity: ○ Relatively easy ● Standard complexity ● Difficult

Flagged Electrical Infrastructure	Description	Action
<b>APARTMENT UNITS, COMMON SPACES</b>		
Brick or lath and plaster wall assemblies and ceiling assemblies with no cavities	Wall and ceiling assemblies that are solid or that have a cavity but are difficult to open and repair (such as lath and plaster or walls and ceilings with decorative finishes) make it difficult to conceal new circuits added during electrification.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Wall and ceiling assemblies with inaccessible cavities require new circuits to be surface mounted or run through attics and crawlspaces. This makes adding new circuits easier but less aesthetically pleasing.</li> <li>● Walls and ceilings with cavities give the option of surface mounting, attic or crawlspace runs or through wall or ceiling cavities.</li> </ul>

23

## Q&A



24

Thank you!

---

Ben Cooper

[bcooper@stopwaste.org](mailto:bcooper@stopwaste.org)

510-891-6511

Jack Aitchison

[jaitchison@aea.us.org](mailto:jaitchison@aea.us.org)

510-256-5890

Aubrey Dority

[adority@aea.us.org](mailto:adority@aea.us.org)

510-256-5889

Report available here:

<https://www.stopwaste.org/accelerating-electrification-of-california%E2%80%99s-multifamily-buildings>