



July 18, 2016

Re: “Berkeley Deep Green Building” Draft Ordinance

Berkeley City Council
1900 Addison Street
Berkeley, CA 94704

Dear Members of the Berkeley City Council,

I am a green building consultant with a national practice and more than 20 years of work focused on improving the environmental, health, and economic performance of US building stock. It has been my pleasure to work with the all-volunteer Berkeley Deep Green Building working group in drafting their proposed ordinance, recognizing that Berkeley has a history of environmental leadership and the ability to effect change that can have influence far beyond Berkeley’s city limits.

I encourage you to adopt Berkeley Deep Green Building because it is designed to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions and toxic chemical generation associated with construction, while also minimizing adverse habitat impacts.

An important aspect of Berkeley Deep Green Building is its focus not just on improving building energy efficiency, but also on transitioning to all-electric buildings; natural gas use represents a very high fraction of greenhouse gas emissions in Berkeley, as it does in many other communities. Meeting Berkeley’s and California’s ambitious climate change goals necessitates that we make this transition as rapidly as possible.

Another central concern of Berkeley Deep Green Building is to ensure that with the increase in energy efficiency, undesirable consequences such as increases in use of toxic and resource-depleting materials are avoided. Thus it encourages the use of materials that are non-toxic and that are low in embodied carbon.

I encourage you to support this program and work towards rapid implementation.

Very sincerely,