

# Debate Assignment

## Renewable Energy Mandate in *All* Buildings

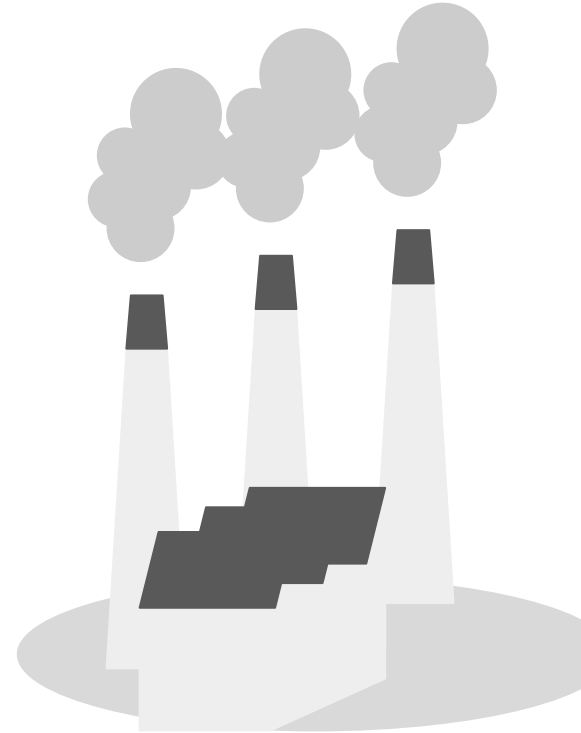
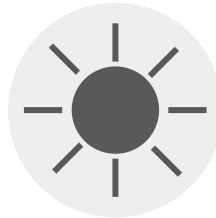
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## Introduction

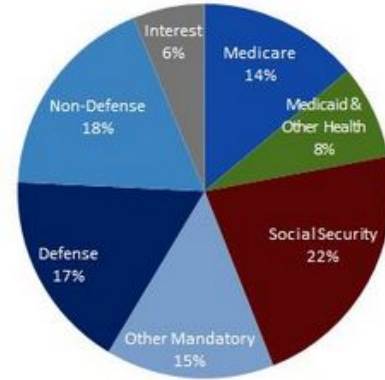
It has been stated that the buildings, both public, and private including homes are inefficient in their use of energy and need to be upgraded to renewable energy sources.

The Federal Government shall mandate that all buildings, both public and private including homes, will be retrofitted to use only renewable sources of energy.

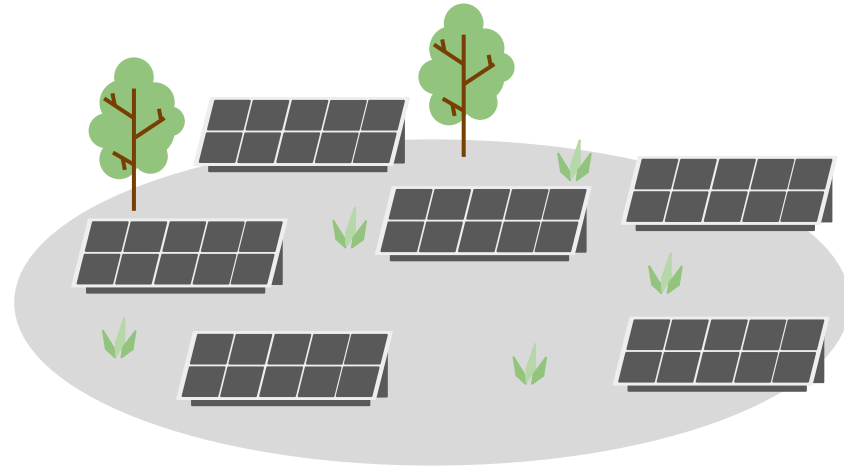


## Ethical considerations : Positives

- The retrofitting should theoretically be covered by the government to account for people who don't have the funds to cover the retrofitting. This would fall into the "other mandatory" category, which is 15% of the government's total budget.[3]
- Mandating that america cutdown a large amount of emissions could lower reliance on fossil fuels exported by other countries, making the us more self sufficient with our energy and less susceptible to outside harm. The US imports 30% of its energy.

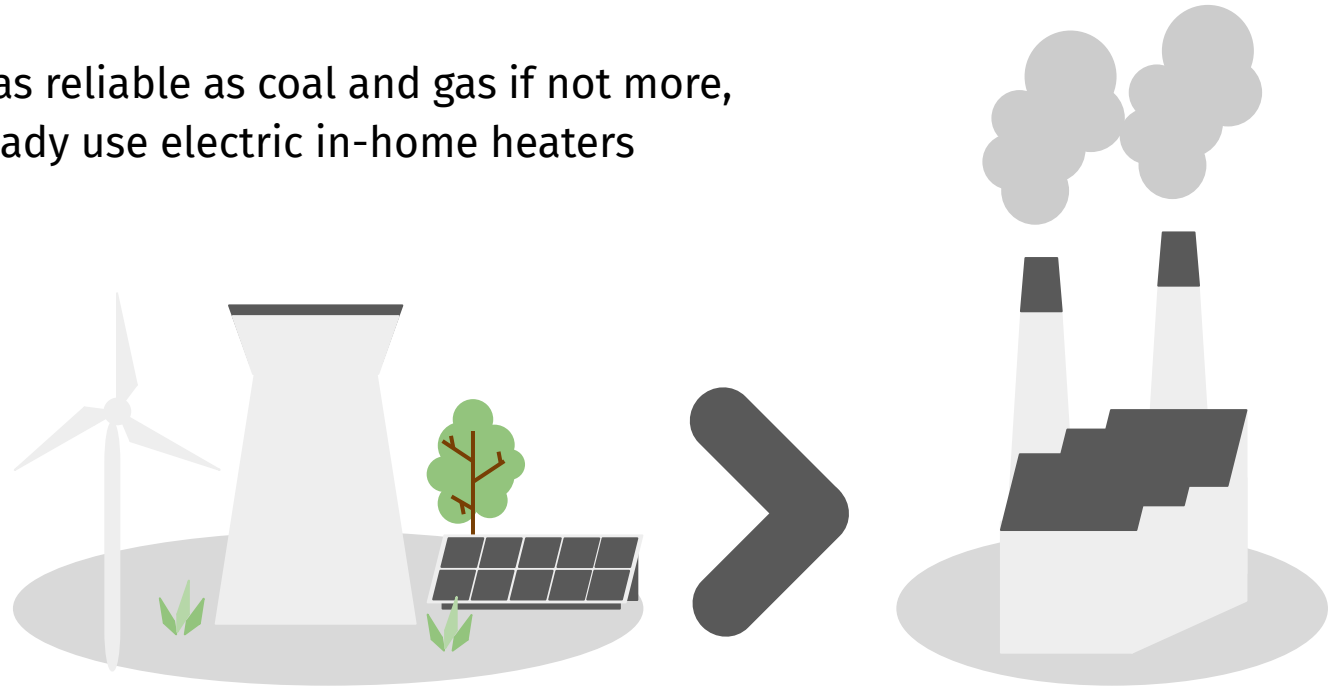
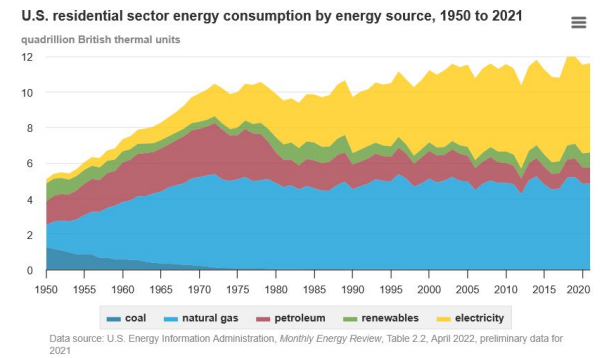


Total Outlays = \$3.5 Trillion



## Ethical considerations : Positives (cont.)

- Going green would be good for the earth because around 37% amount of carbon emissions come from buildings and construction related sectors.[1]
- Renewables are just as reliable as coal and gas if not more, and 13% of homes already use electric in-home heaters (heat-pumps).[2]

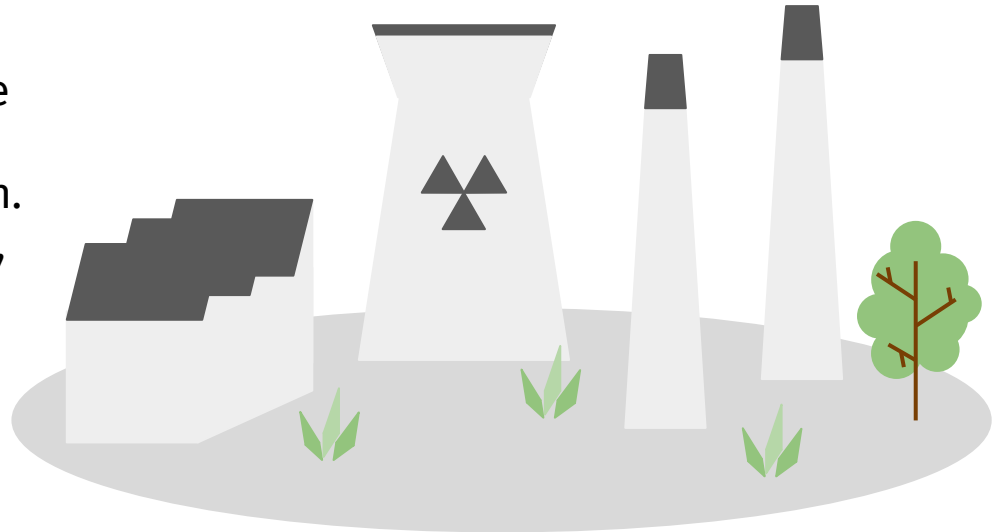


## Argument : Environmental Benefits

Fossil fuels contribute to global warming.

Experts agree that climate change can cause droughts and otherwise lead to stronger natural disasters[5]. Having this in mind, switching to renewable energy within our homes could reduce the potential risks of climate change, which could raise costs in the long run. With less disaster relief being needed, as well as more precautionary measures needing to be taken.

It makes sense to make the decision sooner rather than later. Especially because the housing sector accounts for 37% of our carbon emissions



## Codes of ethics

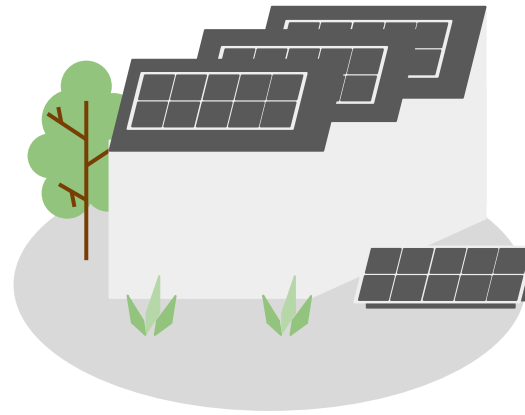
SEI Code 1.07 Consider issues of physical disabilities, allocation of resources, economic disadvantage and other factors that can diminish access to the benefits of software.

ACM Code 3.1 Ensure that the public good is the central concern during all professional computing work.

ACM Codes 3.6 & 3.7 Use care when modifying or retiring systems. / Recognize and take special care of systems that become integrated into the infrastructure of society.

ACM code of ethics

SEI code of ethics:



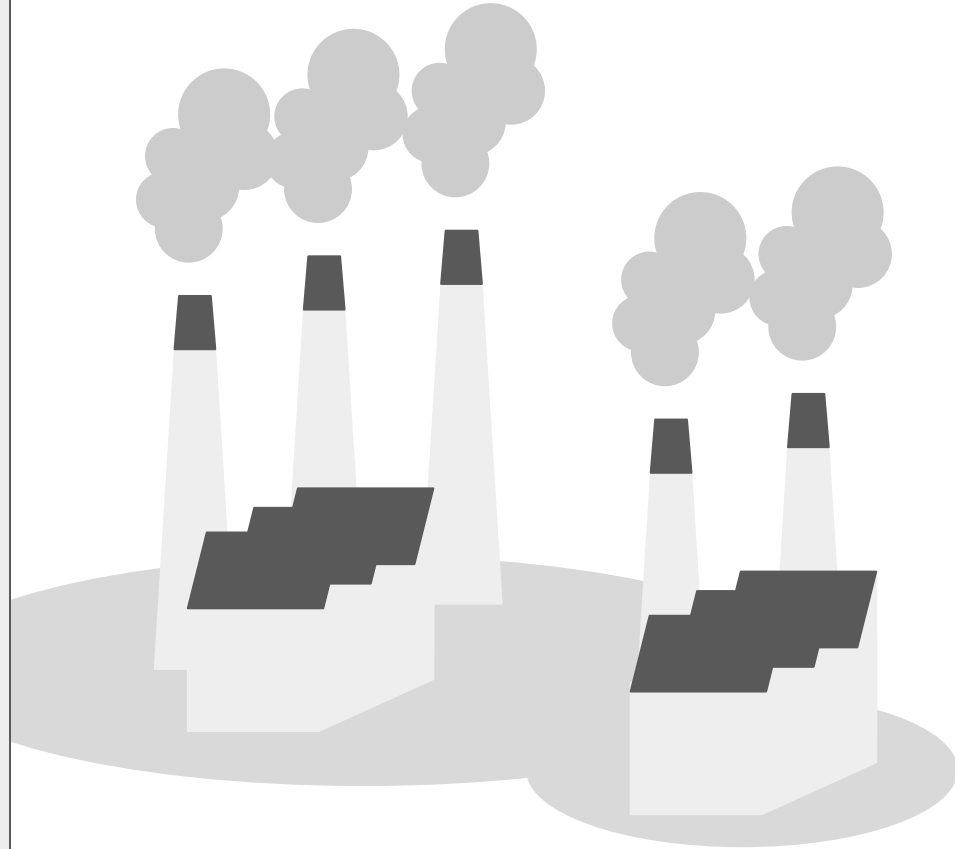
## Ethical Concerns : Negatives

- Just because the government mandates a retrofit, it does not mean that the retrofit is paid for by the government, this might mean increasing housing costs for americans at a time when many are struggling. That is; If the plan was introduced without a proper timeline, or implemented right now during a recession
- The time it would take to retrofit these buildings with the new renewables could be either substantial or nominal depending on what type of renewable it is. Solar panels are one of the more time consuming to install, but nuclear plants would be routed through the same lines as coal or gas.

## Ethical Concerns : Negatives (cont)

In 2022, the fossil fuel industry was worth 2.63 trillion USD [6], switching from fossil fuels would likely harm the industry and lower the profits, which could lower the amount employed by the industry, hurting americans.

In addition, they have powerful influence over the government, and their lobbyists would likely make any laws difficult to enforce or even difficult to make it through the courts.





## Conclusion

In conclusion this team agrees with the decision of the government to mandate all public and private buildings to be retrofitted with renewable energy sources. The points we have provided in this debate shows the potential benefits of this mandate to the country and to individuals.

We've shown that there are ethical and environmental benefits to implementing renewable energy sources. There is a reduced need for fossil fuels which will reduce the debt and improve the economy. There is also the boost to the economy from the jobs that are created due to producing, installing and maintaining the renewable installations.

The environment is also positively impacted because global warming is significantly reduced. The air is cleaner and the health of the general public is better.



## bibliography

[1] UNEP, "Building Materials And The Climate: Constructing A New Future," *UNEP - UN Environment Programme*, Sep. 12, 2023.

<https://www.unep.org/resources/report/building-materials-and-climate-constructing-new-future>

[2] U.S. Energy Information Administration, "Use of energy in homes - U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA)," *Eia.gov*, Dec. 18, 2023. <https://www.eia.gov/energyexplained/use-of-energy/homes.php>

[3] "Overview of the Federal Budget," *Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget*.

<https://www.crfb.org/overview-federal-budget>

[4] U.S. Energy Information Administration, "U.S. energy facts - imports and exports - U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA)," *Eia.gov*, 2016.

<https://www.eia.gov/energyexplained/us-energy-facts/imports-and-exports.php>

[5] USGS, "How can climate change affect natural disasters? | U.S. Geological Survey," *www.usgs.gov*, Feb. 07, 2025. <https://www.usgs.gov/faqs/how-can-climate-change-affect-natural-disasters>

[6] "Fossil Fuels Market," *Thebrainyinsights.com*, 2023.

<https://www.thebrainyinsights.com/report/fossil-fuels-market-13>

More green energy = more forests

