

County Council - I'm Janette Rosenbaum, a resident of Montgomery Village. I'm writing today to ask you to budget more funding for the Building Energy Performance Standards.

I'm here today for the BEPS, and I was there in 2019 when Montgomery County created a system of volunteer workgroups to contribute to the county's climate action plan. I am so happy to say I was also there a few weeks ago, when all 11 of you voted in favor of the BEPS. Thank you for taking this important step forward on Montgomery County's deliberately ambitious plan to reach net-zero by 2035.

Now I'm here again to ask you to allocate funding towards the implementation of the BEPS.

Aside from my long-standing involvement in the complex process behind the BEPS, here's why I care personally about more efficient buildings.

I have noticed that on a cold morning, my apartment can lose five degrees in 30 minutes when I turn the heat down before going to work. Recently I borrowed a thermal camera from the County library system, and I was able to identify the cause of this problem: I have a ton of heat loss through the windows.

It was interesting to learn this. Unfortunately, there's not much I can do about it. As a renter, I'm not allowed to fix the insulation problem, and as a low-income household, I simply can't afford what it would cost to keep the apartment warmer in the winter – or cooler in the summer – by running the HVAC system. Instead, I've just learned to tolerate indoor temperatures anywhere between 55 and 80.

My property managers can fix this problem, and you can help them. By putting more money in the budget for the part of the BEPS that helps building owners pay for efficiency upgrades, you can help renters like me enjoy affordable energy bills and comfortable indoor temperatures.

We have come so far on the BEPS already. I know it has not been easy. But let's finish what we set out to do. Please take this next step to help building owners meet their obligations under the BEPS, and to help building occupants enjoy the immediate benefits of energy efficiency. Please dedicate more funding this year to support the implementation of the Building Energy Performance Standards. Thank you.