

STATE PREEMPTION OF “RESIDENTIAL ENERGY BACKUP SYSTEMS” INSTALLATIONS, EFFECTIVE SEPT. 1, 2025

In accordance with Senate Bill 1252, which recently passed during the 89th Texas Legislature, municipalities may no longer regulate the installation or inspection of a “*residential energy backup system*” (see [Senate Bill 1252](#)). A *residential backup energy system*, per §214.211(6) of the *Local Government Code*, is defined as:

“a backup energy system installed at a residential property that is capable of providing no more than 50 kilowatts of electricity to the residence or has a storage capacity of no more than 100 kilowatt hours.”

To comply with the new state law, Building Code Enforcement has updated its permitting process for *residential energy backup systems* and will continue to release notices to CenterPoint Energy for gas and electrical meter connections. The following process will apply to all new *residential energy backup systems* as defined above:

Gas Piping Connections

A plumbing permit and passing inspection performed by the City of Houston Plumbing Inspections department is required for all fuel gas inspections and gas service releases to CenterPoint Energy. *Please note that the City of Houston will not provide a gas service release to CenterPoint Energy without first performing a passing inspection.*

- Applicants must obtain a Gas Permit from the Plumbing Inspections department.
- The permit is required when gas piping is installed or modified to serve any appliances or fixtures.
- Inspections will follow the Houston *Plumbing Code* and include testing for leaks and verification of gas line requirements.

Electrical Service Connections

An electrical permit and passing inspection performed by the City of Houston Electrical Inspections department is required for all electric service releases to CenterPoint Energy. *Please note that the City of Houston will not provide an electric service release to CenterPoint Energy without first performing a passing inspection.*

- Applicants must obtain a Temporary Cut (TCI)/Reconnect Permit from the Electrical Inspections department.
- The permit covers service modifications related to the homes service equipment. No plan submittal required.
- Inspections will be limited to the main disconnect/emergency disconnect, grounding and bonding or service equipment, and other components that are part of the residential service equipment.

THE CITY WILL NOT INSPECT COMPONENTS OF THE GENERATOR, INVERTERS, OR BATTERIES (ESS) UNITS THEMSELVES

Contact Information

Plumbing Inspections	832-394-8870	hpcplumbingsection@houstontx.gov
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Code Development		code.development@houstontx.gov