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# Path Forward on Energy and Sustainability to Confront a Changing Climate

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Concern is growing in communities around the world about the impacts of a changing climate. Leaders are looking for strategies to support increased energy efficiency and reduced greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to meet their policy goals. At the same time, consumers are seeking more energy efficient and sustainable homes.

Over the past year, the International Code Council has collected and assessed feedback from members and the public to inform a new framework for promoting energy efficiency. The Code Council will build on the technical solutions provided by the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC), International Residential Code (IRC), and International Green Construction Code (IgCC) to create a portfolio of advanced mitigation solutions to battle the impacts of our changing climate. This portfolio will provide a menu of options for jurisdictions, from a strong and increasing set of minimum requirements, to pathways to net zero energy and additional greenhouse gas reduction policies.

The IECC is central to this objective. It establishes a minimum set of requirements and serves as the basis for the formulation of additional tools that meet the policy needs of all levels of governments and the private sector entities that have set energy, GHG emissions and cost saving targets. To meet this objective, the development process for the IECC will use the Code Council's standards development procedures in order to allow for more in-depth scientific and economic deliberations, quicker progress to meeting public and private sector goals, and the development of a broader consensus that will support wider application and adoption.

The International Code Council has a long and respected history in administering a standards development process and is accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) as a standards developing organization (SDO) that adheres to ANSI's Essential Requirements for openness, balance, consensus and due process. Energy codes developed under the standards process are widely adopted and used across the United States. In fact, every state that adopts energy codes statewide—except two states with homegrown codes—has adopted an energy standard as a or the compliance path to meeting adopted energy codes.

The 2024 IECC will start from the content of the 2021 IECC, building on prior successes including an increase of efficiency requirements by about 40%, or an average of 8% a cycle from 2006 to 2021, allowing the IECC to remain a strong avenue for communities to reach their energy efficiency and sustainability goals globally. The scope and intent of the 2024 IECC and editions moving forward will be updated to reflect the following commitments:

- The IECC will continue to be updated on a three-year cycle and each edition will increase efficiency over the prior edition;
- The code will include pathways leading to the achievement of zero energy buildings presently and by 2030;
- The code may include non-mandatory appendices incorporating energy efficiency and greenhouse gas reduction resources including for electric vehicle charging, electrification and embodied carbon;
- The code's minimum efficiency requirements will be strengthened each edition based on a balancing test [supported by energy efficiency advocates and the building industry](#) and passed by both the U.S. House and Senate;
- The development committees will be informed by insight from a newly established Energy and Carbon Advisory Council made up of public and private sector leaders.

Governments continue to have the ultimate say on whether to adopt or amend model codes.

The IECC Development Committees (Residential and Commercial) will be appointed solely by the Code Council Board of Directors and will represent a variety of perspectives and building science expertise. The committees will include representatives from nine interest categories, including diverse representation within those categories. Recognizing the important role of governments in the adoption and use of the IECC, the framework ensures that government officials continue to have a leading voice. One third of committee membership and the voting committee chairs will represent the government regulatory category. Committee membership will be determined through an open nominations process with no seats reserved for organizations. Committee membership will represent a diversity of climate zones, organization sizes, businesses, and jurisdictions, and a range of experience in building types and energy efficiency strategies.

Committee appointments will strive to achieve an equitable and diverse committee membership that represents racial, gender and socio-economic diversity.

In addition to updates to the IECC, the Code Council will launch a suite of resources that provide communities with a menu of technical and policy resources, which integrate with the International Codes, to address their energy efficiency and GHG reduction goals. Many of these solutions would require the use of on-site renewable generation and energy storage. Specific solutions could address:

- Electric vehicle charging for all building types
- Electrification and decarbonization
- Zero energy and zero carbon
- Embodied carbon
- Grid interactivity/efficiency
- Performance standards for existing buildings
- Enhancing energy savings through water efficiency and reuse resource
- Integration of on-site renewable energy generation and energy storage to realize greenhouse gas reduction and resilience goals.

The Code Council remains committed to assisting communities in meeting their energy efficiency and greenhouse gas reduction priorities and in educating its members regarding the new process. This effort would be aided by the more than 9,000 departments, agencies, and jurisdictions who are Code Council members, the Code Council's nearly 400 state and local chapters, and a team of government relations staff liaisons that interface daily with state and local officials.

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