

Building Energy Codes

Description:

The Department of Energy (DOE) projects that, over time, improvements in building codes can have the greatest single impact in energy efficiency within the built environment than any other policy initiative. Because buildings will be around for generations, energy efficiency within the built environment is a matter of statewide and long-term importance. Some states have statewide building codes, others defer to local governments. In either case, legislation can set a baseline efficiency standard - preferably also providing for regular review and update by a code panel that has rule making authority.

Discussion of the Policy:

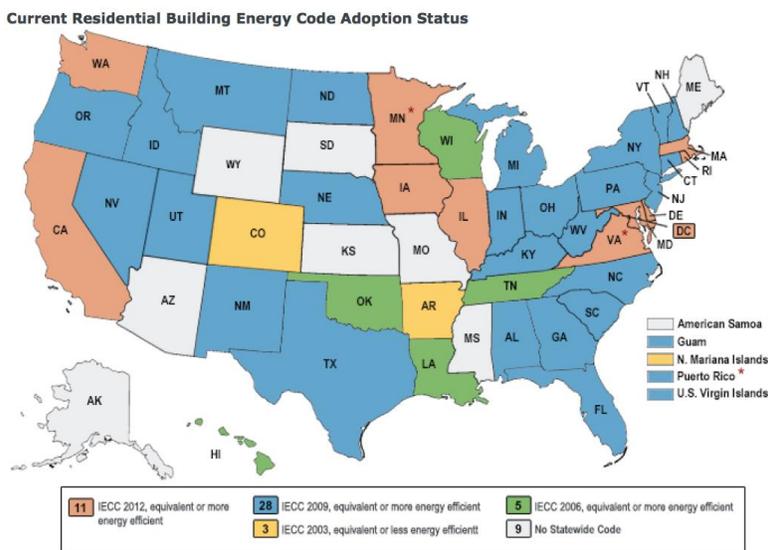
Efficiency building code legislation typically establishes a baseline International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) standard to be incorporated into state and local building code requirements.

The International Code Council ([ICC](http://www.icc.org)) updates the IECC every three years. IECC standards include the 2003, 2006, 2009 and 2012 standards. Relative to the 2006 IECC:

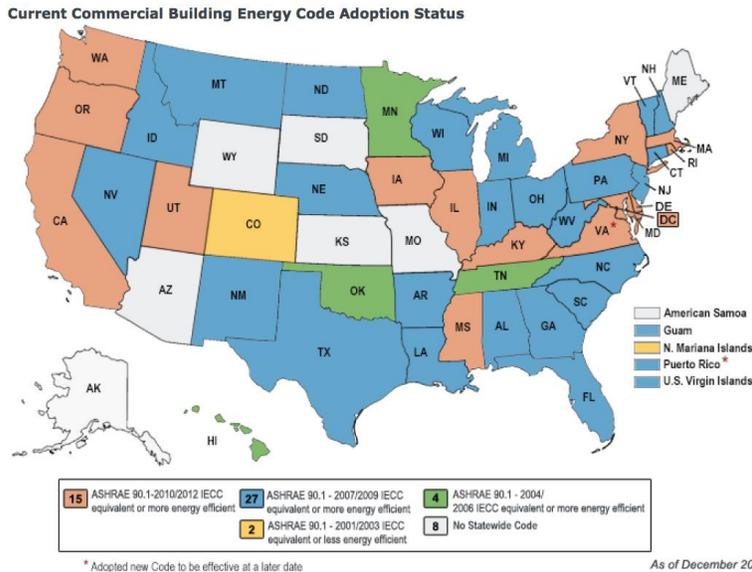
- 2009 IECC is 12-15% more efficient
- 2012 IECC is 30% more efficient
- 2015 IECC is (projected to be) 50% more efficient

Example State Programs:

Most states have adopted commercial and residential building codes.



Source: energycodes.gov



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- Illinois Energy Conservation Code for Commercial and Residential Buildings
<https://www.illinois.gov/dceo/whyillinois/KeyIndustries/Energy/Pages/IECC.aspx>
- Massachusetts Building Energy Codes
<http://www.mass.gov/eea/energy-utilities-clean-tech/energy-efficiency/policies-regs-for-ee/building-energy-codes.html>
- Texas Building Energy Code
<http://www.seco.cpa.state.tx.us/tbec/>
- Utah Clean Energy
<http://utahcleanenergy.org/success-stories/uce-wins/item/81-improved-energy-building-codes-for-utah>

DOE's Building Energy Codes Program ([BCEP](#)) supports energy efficiency through multiple program areas including the development of model energy codes and standards. In order to support the adoption and implementation of, as well as compliance with building codes and standards, the program provides technical and other assistance to states, local governments, and building owners.

Key Components:

- Identification of a baseline standard to be the minimum. Local jurisdictions and other units of government are often authorized to adopt more stringent standards.
- Identification or creation of a review committee. Committee membership should include code officials, representatives of local governments, architects, and members of the building community.

- Establishment of a review period whereby the review committee may recommend (or if it has the authority, establish) a new standard. The review period should be offset from the three year IECC schedule and comport to a similar (three year) review schedule.

More Information:

- ACEEE, Commercial Sector webpage:
<http://www.aceee.org/sector/commercial>
- ACEEE, Residential Sector webpage:
<http://www.aceee.org/sector/residential>
- Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, BECP Program Fact Sheet:
http://energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2014/05/f15/saving_with_building_energy_codes.pdf
- Energy Center of Wisconsin, Seventhwave website:
<http://www.ecw.org/>
- Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, National Benefits Assessment 1992-2014:
http://www.energycodes.gov/sites/default/files/documents/BenefitsReport_Final_March20142.pdf