

Better energy codes for buildings *now.*

The simple facts are:

1. Buildings consume about **two-thirds of the U.S. power supply**
2. Buildings account for about **40% of carbon emissions.**
3. **Carbon reduction goals cannot be met** without significant gains in energy efficiency through better building energy codes.
4. There is a feasible and practical model energy code for commercial buildings that would **improve energy performance by up to 30%.**

In late October, building code officials from across the country will gather in Charlotte, North Carolina, for a final action hearing to review and vote on revisions to the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC). New Buildings Institute (NBI), American Institute of Architects (AIA) and the Department of Energy (DOE) are **proposing comprehensive changes (EC 147) to the commercial chapter of the IECC that will achieve practical, feasible and necessary energy use reductions approaching 30% for commercial buildings***.

Two additional NBI-AIA proposals (EC 157 and EC 165) to improve the commercial chapter of the IECC's current opaque envelope table and fenestration table will also be considered at the hearings.

WHY IS THIS A GOOD THING?

Buildings built to most model energy codes, like the current IECC, are **not as energy efficient as they could be** and do not take advantage of all the widely available technologies and design practices that improve energy performance.

While the energy savings represents a significant increase from current codes, the requirements to achieve the savings is **practical, achievable and affordable**. Savings offered by 2012 IECC Commercial proposal would also meet the

near-term goals of the Architecture 2030 Challenge and proposed federal legislation that would mandate a 30% improvement in building efficiency.

WHY IS THIS OPTION THE RIGHT ONE?

The 2012 IECC Commercial Energy Code Proposal is based on NBI's *Core Performance Guide*, a tested, direct approach to achieving energy savings in commercial buildings. Utilities and states around the country have adopted *Core Performance* as part of their efficiency program offerings and support the use of *Core Performance*. Building codes based on *Core Performance* have already been adopted by nearly 50 cities in Massachusetts and are under consideration by other states such as Vermont, Oregon, New Mexico.

Strategies described in the proposal are doable and widely supported by the public and private sector. The measures take advantage of readily-available equipment and design strategies related to building envelope, heating and cooling, lighting, quality assurance and renewable energy. These are tried-and-true practices that have been successfully applied to commercial buildings under utility and state energy efficiency programs across the country.

WHAT CAN I DO?

The vote in Charlotte is one of the most important national energy decisions our country will make this decade.

Individuals, organizations and businesses can:

- ✓ Call for better building energy codes now by signing up as a supporter for **the 2012 IECC High Efficiency Commercial Code Package**. Visit www.newbuildings.org/better-energy-codes-buildings-now.

Government officials eligible to vote in the ICC Final Action Hearings can:

- ✓ Be available to vote on the 2012 IECC High Efficiency Commercial Package during the hearings in Charlotte on Saturday, October 30 (scheduled until 6 p.m.).
- ✓ Make sure your city and state energy officials and other government employees are eligible to vote by joining the International Code Council or renewing membership by **October 15**. ICC member applications can be downloaded at: www.iccsafe.org/Membership/Documents/Government_Membership_App.pdf.
- ✓ Submit your city's list of four, eight or twelve voting representatives (based on population) by **October 15 to the ICC**.
- ✓ Urge your voting representatives to **support proposals: EC 147, EC 157 and EC 165**.
- ✓ Log on to www.eshow2000.com/iccbwi/lodging_and_transportation.cfm for special registrant hotel rates, discount airfares and other transportation information.

Additional information on ICC's annual conference and Final Action Hearings can be found at www.eshow2000.com/iccbwi/splash.cfm.

For more information about the NBI/AIA/DOE proposals, visit www.newbuildings.org/comprehensive-iecc-proposal



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