The Power is in Mayors’ Hands to Put America’s Model Energy Code on a Glide Path to Net Zero Construction of New Residential, Multifamily, & Commercial Buildings

A unique 2019 opportunity for Mayors to set sound energy, economic, climate, and safety policy that pays a century of dividends to building occupants, power grids, and the nation. Buildings use 39% of America’s energy, account for more than a third of carbon emissions, and last 100+ years, so constructing them to be as efficient as possible is important. Pro-efficiency voting by city governmental officials on the 2021 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) this year will benefit family budgets, housing markets, local economies and national energy and climate policy for generations to come.

The IECC benefits owners/tenants with cash, comfort, and a cleaner environment. The IECC is the ONLY building code that pays for itself. Energy bill savings quickly recoup the slight incremental cost increase of efficiency improvements, then add thousands to building and home owner wallets. New buildings will receive 1,200 energy bills over their 100-year lifespans!

Mayors lead the way on energy bill savings for low-income and other building owners and tenants, reducing building energy waste and carbon emissions. America’s mayors have long recognized the importance of building energy efficiency in the development of a sound and successful national energy policy, single-handedly mounting local energy efficiency efforts and joining together in campaigns like the “City Energy Project,” “Cities LEAP,” the “Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy,” “We Are Still In,” “Mayors for 100% Clean Energy,” “Ready for 100,” that are designed to employ energy-related supply and demand measures to reduce their local carbon footprints. Improving the model energy code may be the single most-impactful strategy to achieve climate goals.

USCM Resolution 86 Links Building Efficiency with Climate Goals, Calls for Putting 2021 and Future IECCs on a Glide Path to Net Zero by 2050. The Result will be a Glide Path to:

- **Home & Commercial Building Affordability:** Energy bills are the highest and least predictable cost for homeowners and small businesses. Because buildings last 100 years and generate 1,200 monthly energy bills, the IECC puts tens of thousands in energy bill savings in the wallets of home and business owners.

- **Stabilizing Utility Costs & Grids:** Energy efficient home and commercial buildings perform during heat waves and cold snaps; flattening energy demand peaks, stabilizing grids and delaying the need for new power plants.

- **U.S. Energy Independence and Security:** Homes and commercial buildings are the “elephant in the room” of national energy policy, using 39% of all U.S. energy, 54% of natural gas & 71% of electricity.

- **Meeting Paris Climate Targets:** Homes and commercial buildings are also the largest source of US GHG emissions. IECC efficiency measures are the most cost-effective means of reducing carbon emissions

- **Net Zero Commercial/Residential Buildings:** The number of affordable net zero homes, apartments, & commercial buildings in the U.S. is growing every day. Steady IECC efficiency gains will help us realize the very real potential of net-zero construction for all buildings.

It takes very little time and money to maximize your city’s voting for this year’s update of America’s Model Energy Code. The Power Is in the Hands of ICC Governmental Members.
Mayors’ Guide to Putting the 2021 IECC on a Glide Path of Steady Efficiency Gains
A Checklist and Timeline to Improve America’s Model Energy Code

Minimal Pain (and $); Huge Gain: Cast Your Votes for the 2021 IECC

1. MAKE 2021 IECC EFFICIENCY GAINS YOUR CITY’s POLICY; MAXIMIZE YOUR CITY’S ICC GOVERNMENTAL MEMBERSHIPS

   The IECC improves life-safety and puts thousands in energy bill savings in business and home owner/renter wallets.

2. JOIN (or RENEW) YOUR ICC MEMBERSHIPS and DESIGNATE PRIMARY REPRESENTATIVES

   Five minutes and $135-$370 (based on population) is all it takes to secure each of your city’s ICC Governmental Memberships.

3. SUBMIT EACH GOVERNMENTAL MEMBER’s ROSTER OF 4, 8, OR 12 GOVERNMENTAL MEMBER VOTING REPRESENTATIVES “GMVRs” TO ICC

   Number of voters for each Governmental Member is based on population:
   - 0-50,000 = 4 GMVRs
   - 50,000-150,000 = 8 GMVRs
   - 150,000+ = 12 GMVRs

4. VOTE! DESIGNATE SOMEONE TO ASSURE GMVRs HAVE EECC’S VOTING GUIDE and CAST THEIR VOTES

   EECC’s objective Voting Guide is USCM-endorsed. Voting takes under an hour – we suggest GMVRs vote en masse with a department pizza lunch.

Some Pain (more $); Huge Gain: Send Witnesses to IECC Hearings

SEND 1-2 GMVRs TO ICC COMMITTEE ACTION HEARINGS (CAH) IN ALBUQUERQUE TO TESTIFY IN FAVOR OF A MORE EFFICIENT 2021 IECC

At the CAH, Residential & Commercial Energy Committees hear testimony on each IECC proposal, then vote to recommend its approval or disapproval.

SEND 1-2 GMVRs TO ICC PUBLIC COMMENT HEARINGS (PCH) IN LAS VEGAS TO TESTIFY IN FAVOR OF A MORE EFFICIENT 2021 IECC

At the PCH, voters hear public comments to amend committee-rejected proposals, then vote to determine which will be included on the online ballot for a full membership vote.

Some Pain (mostly time); Huge Gain: Recruit Allies; Get Involved in Adoption

GET INVOLVED IN SUPPORT OF STATE AND LOCAL ADOPTION OF MOST RECENT IECC

The IECC is the only "I-Code" cited in federal law, but as a model code, it’s up to states and localities to adopt and enforce an updated version.

BOOST ENFORCEMENT / COMPLIANCE BY PROVIDING CODE OFFICIAL & BUILDER TRAINING

Energy Efficient Codes Coalition www.energyefficientcodes.org