

THE BUILDING CODES ASSISTANCE PROJECT

ARRA SERVICES



Federal Funding for Energy Efficiency Through Codes

Updated March 7, 2009

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) provides funding for energy efficiency and energy codes. States will receive millions of dollars from DOE through the State Energy Program (SEP). This funding is tied to requirements for utility decoupling, investments in existing energy efficiency programs, and **adoption and implementation of energy codes**. State implementation of energy codes must reach a compliance level of 90% within eight years.

States will also receive funding through Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants which may be used for energy code adoption and implementation efforts.

BUILDING CODES ASSISTANCE PROJECT (BCAP) SERVICES FOR STATES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

BCAP has been providing assistance to states and local governments for over 15 years. We can help you respond to ARRA funding and create a sustainable codes infrastructure with an emphasis on job creation. Strategic planning is critical in developing an energy codes program that has lasting value. Energy codes are extremely technical and complex and can be leveraged to achieve a variety of local/state priorities. Our team of experts can help you adopt and implement policies and programs to meet your goals.

ENERGY CODE ACTION PLAN

BCAP will develop Code Action Plans to assist states in effectively adopting and implementing energy codes to meet the compliance target set by the U.S. DOE's SEP. Energy Code Action Plans will **guide your state through the complexities of code adoption**, enforcement, training, compliance, and measurement & verification by using data specific to your state while applying national best practices. These plans may include the following:

- Current Status Assessments
- Budget and Financial Assessments
- Barrier and Gap Analysis
- Strategic Plan Development
- Corrective Action Analysis

While well-designed building energy codes are the logical starting point for a full energy codes initiative, the policies and programs that implement the code through *training, enforcement, and compliance* are critical components to ensuring that you achieve energy savings targets.

ENERGY CODE TRAINING PROGRAM

Every state needs a carefully planned and implemented energy codes training program to achieve successful

enforcement and compliance. BCAP will develop a **state-specific codes training program** which draws from existing local and national training services, along with tools adapted to state resources and the current status of energy codes. BCAP Training Plans will include recommendations for program design including frequency, cost, curriculum, and certification requirements — as well as innovative outreach strategies.

COMPLIANCE & ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM

A carefully designed and well-implemented compliance and enforcement strategy will **deliver measurable energy savings and provide metrics** to track and measure results. BCAP will develop the elements that drive successful compliance and enforcement strategies using best practices and lessons learned from other communities and states to inform the following activities:

- Compliance and Enforcement Assessments
- Compliance and Enforcement Pilots
- Compliance Outreach Plans

BCAP is a joint initiative of the Alliance to Save Energy (ASE), the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE), and the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC). For more information on the specific services BCAP can provide your state, contact Aleisha Khan at akhan@ase.org or visit www.bcap-energy.org.

ARRA: STATE CHECKLIST FOR ENERGY CODE ACTIVITY

Determine how your state is currently addressing building energy codes, what steps will help you achieve your energy goals, and how to comply with the requirements for ARRA funding:



1) ADOPT THE TWO MODEL ENERGY CODES: 2009 IECC AND ASHRAE 90.1-2007

Strategies/Mechanisms:

- Issue an Executive Order to put new codes in place.
 - Executive Order should be followed by either conforming legislation or a rulemaking process for future versions of the model codes.
- Expedite an existing regulatory process to review and adopt the most recent energy codes.
- Author or support legislation that establishes the most recent model energy codes as the baseline for all new construction.
 - Energy code legislation should include a regular process for review & updates, mandatory state-wide implementation, and support for training.
 - For sample policy language, see: www.bcap-energy.org/node/157
 - Several states are already considering legislation that would adopt the model energy codes.

2) DEVELOP AND SUPPORT EFFECTIVE TRAINING AND EDUCATION STANDARDS

Strategies/Mechanisms:

- Extend training to a variety of affected audiences and sectors—code officials, engineers/architects, builders, subcontractors.
- Assess training content to ensure that all aspects of both energy codes (2009 IECC and ASHRAE 90.1-2007) are fully addressed.
- Leverage training provided through the internet and through in-person settings to create the most effective combination for your state and community.
- Establish strict professional certification requirements, such as education certification units (ECUs) that must be earned specifically through energy code training.

3) ENFORCE COMPLIANCE WITH THE CODES

Strategies/Mechanisms:

- Ensure that existing code resources are being fully utilized to facilitate compliance (user guides, pocket guides, and others).
- Explore additional resource and information needs and how they can be resolved.
- Determine the current status of energy code compliance; develop and implement a code compliance baseline study.
- Implement corrective actions and creative solutions to improve compliance rates.
- Measure changes in compliance rates over time, including calculations of energy savings and carbon reductions.

BCAP is available to assist states, local governments, and others with the energy efficiency provisions of ARRA 2009 as they apply to building energy codes.

