

ENERGY CODES:

KNOW
YOUR
ENERGY
RIGHTS

What Policymakers Need to Know

Energy used by buildings accounts for nearly 49 percent of total energy use in the United States—more than either the transportation or industrial sectors.

Energy Codes provide minimum requirements for efficient design and construction for new and renovated residential and commercial buildings. They form part of the overall building code that is adopted by state and local governments.

The current model energy codes are the 2012 IECC (residential and commercial) or ASHRAE Standard 90.1-2010 (commercial).

ENERGY CODES ARE GOOD PUBLIC POLICY BECAUSE THEY:

SAVE CONSUMERS MONEY

The average U.S. household spends \$2,125 on utility costs per year and the commercial sector spends about \$183 billion on energy. Buildings constructed to meet the model energy codes use less energy, which reduces utility bills and puts money back into consumers' pockets.

HELP STIMULATE THE ECONOMY & CREATE JOBS

Money not spent on energy bills boost the economy as consumers and businesses can reinvest in other goods and services. In addition, building homes to code strengthen investment in efficient materials and requires quality craftsmanship and labor, which increases overall job growth.



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MAKE A COST-EFFECTIVE INVESTMENT

When amortized over a standard mortgage, the added cost of building to the energy code is just dollars per month, and owners usually realize net savings within the first year. That's a solid return on investment. Adopting and enforcing strong energy codes is much more cost-effective than trying to improve efficiency through retrofit programs afterward.

REDUCE POLLUTION AND INCREASE RELIABILITY

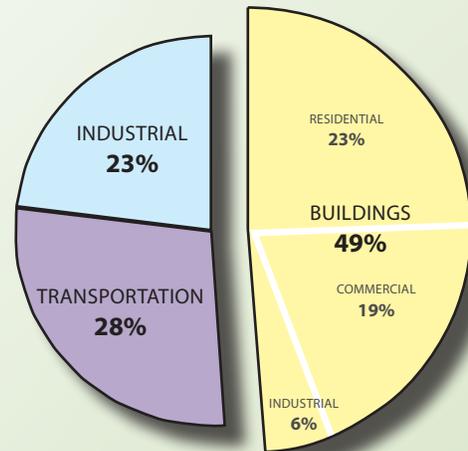
Buildings use 70 percent of our electricity. Wasting energy makes power plants work harder and adds stress to our aging electric power grid. Buildings that meet national standards reduce pollution and help the environment while improving grid reliability.

PROTECT CONSUMERS AND PROMOTE HEALTH AND SAFETY

Policymakers and government leaders should ensure that energy codes are enforced as stringently as other life, health, and safety codes. Buildings that meet or exceed national standards are more durable and comfortable and have fewer drafts and better air quality.

Energy codes are a smart investment and improve homeowners' quality of life. Every state and local government should ensure that its residents have the right to energy-efficient homes.

AMOUNT OF ENERGY CONSUMED BY MAJOR SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY



Buildings account for 49 percent of the total energy use in the United States

Source: Energy Information Administration, Annual Energy Review 2011.



BCAP

energycodesocean.org/yourhome

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