



2016 ADVOCACY SUMMIT

Issue: WHY IT IS IMPORTANT TO STRENGTHEN THE STATE ENERGY CODE TO MEET THE 2030 CHALLENGE

In 2007, the AIA in association with several other professional groups issued The 2030 Challenge asking the global architecture and building community to adopt the following targets:

- All new buildings, developments and major renovations shall be designed to meet a fossil fuel, GHG-emitting, energy consumption performance standard of 70% below the regional (or country) average/median for that building type.
- At a minimum, an equal amount of existing building area shall be renovated annually to
- meet a fossil fuel, GHG-emitting, energy consumption performance standard of 70% of the regional (or country) average/median for that building type.
- The fossil fuel reduction standard for all new buildings and major renovations shall be increased to:
 - 80% in 2020
 - 90% in 2025
 - Carbon-neutral in 2030 (using no fossil fuel GHG emitting energy to operate).

These targets were to be accomplished by implementing innovative sustainable design strategies, generating on-site renewable power and/or purchasing (20% maximum) renewable energy.

While we have made progress towards meeting the goals, there is still much left to be done. Our State energy code, while more stringent than many, is still insufficient to meet the 2030 Challenge.

Our building and energy codes are initiated by and through the State Building Code Council. The State Building Code Council is not well-liked by most Republicans. For the past several years there have been multiple bills introduced related to the state energy code, mostly attempts to weaken the code. AIA has historically opposed efforts to weaken the State Building Code Council and defends a strong energy code in Washington State. Over the past several years the Building Code Council has come under increasing attacks in the Legislature primarily around the way they follow the administrative procedures act



(APA) when making decisions regarding the state energy code. AIA supports the Building Code Council and works to protect a strong state energy code.

Relevant information: The main detractors of the building code council are the Building Industry Association of Washington and several other contractor groups such as the masonry contractors. Several environmental groups including the Northwest Energy Coalition support the state energy code. Most energy code legislation goes the House Environment Committee and the Senate Energy and Telecommunications Committee. The State Building Code Council was sued last spring by the BIAW over its failure to properly follow the APA in its procedures. Several legislators from both parties still have major concerns about how the Building Code Council is currently working. In general, however, we have good support among the Democrats.