



AIA Washington Council

A Council of the American Institute of Architects



Support Amending E2SHB 1747 & E2SSB 5854 to adopt the National Model Energy Code

E2SHB 1747 & E2SSB 5854 represent needed improvements to the Washington State Energy Code. Buildings are major consumers of electricity and a huge source for greenhouse gas emissions. These bills will ensure that Washington continues to lead the nation in the efficiency of its design and construction practices.

One provision that would make these bills even better is the adoption of a national model energy code. Washington currently develops its own energy code. The current code is expensive for the state to develop; complicated for architects, engineers and contractors to follow; and difficult for building officials to enforce.

The American Institute of Architects and the Washington Association of Building Officials encourage lawmakers to amend Section 4(8) to state:

The International Energy Conservation Code, published by the International Code Council, Inc, is adopted by reference for use as the Washington state energy code. The state building code council shall amend the code as necessary to implement section 5 of this act. This provision shall take effect for any energy code that is adopted after January 1, 2012.

There are many benefits to adopting the IECC:

- The IECC is a comprehensive model energy conservation code developed by the International Code Council written to seamlessly coordinate with the building, residential, fire, and mechanical codes adopted in Washington by statute, RCW 19.27.
- The IECC can be modified to reflect the energy policy goals and climatic requirements that are unique to Washington. The US Department of Energy provides free technical assistance to states who want to modify the IECC.
- The IECC is currently adopted at the state and local level in 39 states and Washington, D.C.
- The IECC is a federally recognized document that qualifies users for funding in the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).
- The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) provides funding, free materials, free software for training and computer energy modeling, free online resources, and free technical assistance for code officials, architects, engineers, contractors and others. DOE's technical support helps to conserve state resources and reduce duplication of effort targeted toward helping compliance with energy codes.
- The IECC provides the prescriptive criteria referenced in the updated insulation requirements in the Energy Improvements to Existing Homes Tax Credits found in the IRS tax code.
- The IECC is referenced in the ICC/NAHB National Green Building Standard for residential construction, which is correlated to gain code-plus energy efficiencies in the Bronze (15 %), Silver (30%), Gold (40%) or Emerald (50%) categories.

For more information and questions please contact Stan Bowman, AIA|WA Executive Director, at 360.943.6012/bowman@aiawa.org or Chris Newbry, WABO lobbyist, at 360.352.6288/c_newbry@msn.com.