

July 9, 2011



International Code Council
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The Honorable Mayor Richard J. Berry
City of Albuquerque
1 Civic Plaza
Albuquerque NM 87102

Dear Mayor Berry,

As A local New Mexico tradesman, citizen and senior staff member of the International Code Council (ICC), I am particularly interested in the opportunity to help the City of Albuquerque incorporate more aggressive energy efficiency requirements through effective code adoption for construction. This will not only save New Mexicans money but also allow business and development opportunities for our local market by standardizing construction techniques and systems to allow transportability.

New Mexico has long recognized the benefit of using codes developed in the private sector by the same people who utilize and enforce them. Code Council members from New Mexico have always played an active role in the development of these codes, including the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC). Buildings constructed under the 2009 edition of the IECC will at achieve at least a 15% reduction in energy consumption compared to the previous (2006) edition.

Currently other states in the West, such as, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Utah and Oregon have already updated their codes to the 2009 editions and others are pondering whether to adopt the 2009 or to achieve an additional 15% reduction.

We hope Albuquerque will take advantage of the enhanced provisions of the 2009 edition of the International Energy Conservation Code. The Code Council looks forward to continuing to provide all of the support you may need to implement and adopt the most widely utilized safety and sustainability codes in the nation.

I have prepared a brief study, attached, that depicts some of the improvements of the 2009 code compared to the 2006. I hope you find this useful.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need any assistance.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jay Peters". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jay Peters
Executive Director, PMG
International Code Council

Cc: Lynne Anderson, President, NAIOP-NM

Summary of 2009 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) Improvements over the 2006 Edition



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The 2009 IECC will produce approximately 15% in energy efficiency gains compared to the 2006 edition, according to the Department Of Energy (DOE). As a result, homes and commercial buildings, including schools and hospitals built in jurisdictions that adopt the 2009 IECC, will consume less energy and help the environment by reducing emissions associated with building operation.

Adopted at the state and local level in 39 states and Washington, D.C., the IECC residential and commercial procedures have a strong following and a well-developed format that is simple to use and familiar to code officials.

The IECC is published by the International Code Council and is tied to federal law determined by Congress and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) through the Energy Policy Act of 1992. It is the only energy code that serves as the basis for federal tax credits for energy-efficient homes, energy efficiency standards for federal residential buildings and manufactured housing, and state energy code determinations.

Recent legislation passed by the U.S. House of Representatives includes \$3.4 billion in energy assistance grants for states if the International Code Council's 2009 IECC is adopted and administered. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (HR 1) requires governors who want a share of state energy assistance grants to certify their state will adopt an energy code for one- and two-family homes, townhouses and low-rise, multiple-family buildings that meets or exceeds provisions in the 2009 IECC for residential construction, and the ANSI/ASHRAE/IESNA Standard 90.1-2007, as referenced in the 2009 IECC for commercial buildings.

New energy efficient provisions in the 2009 IECC include:

- Improved window and skylight efficiencies for homes constructed in “warm humid” and “hot humid” climates which lower energy costs during cooling periods.
- An increase in insulation *R*-values for walls, floors and basements in cold climates to achieve greater heating and cooling savings.
- New separate requirements for high-rise condominiums and apartments regarding commercial insulation and window tables.
- Radiant heating requirements for unenclosed public spaces.
- Clear depiction of mechanical provisions regarding when and where a Demand Control Ventilation strategy is required.
- The duct system now has to be tested and the air leakage out of ducts must be kept to an acceptable maximum level. Testing is not required if all ducts are inside the building envelope (for example in heated basements), though the ducts still have to be sealed.
- 50% of the lighting “lamps” (bulbs, tubes, etc.) in a building have to be energy efficient. Compact fluorescents qualify, standard incandescent bulbs do not.
- Trade-off credit can no longer be obtained for high efficiency HVAC equipment. For example, if a high efficiency furnace is used, no reduction in wall insulation is allowed.
- Vertical fenestration U-factor requirements are reduced from 0.75 to 0.65 in Climate Zone 2, 0.65 to 0.5 in Climate Zone 3, and 0.4 to 0.35 in Climate Zone 4.
- The maximum allowable solar heat gain coefficient is reduced from 0.40 to 0.30 in Climate Zones 1, 2, and 3.
- R-20 walls in climate zones 5 and 6 (increased from R-19).
- Modest basement wall and floor insulation improvements.
- R-3 pipe insulation on hydronic distribution systems (increased from R-2).
- Limitation on opaque door exemption both size and style (side hinged).
- Improved air-sealing language.
- Controls for driveway/sidewalk snow melting systems.
- Pool covers are required for heated pools.