

Recommendation for Action (Energy Code)

Posting Language

Conduct a public hearing and consider an ordinance repealing and replacing Article 12 of City Code Chapter 25-12 (Technical Codes) to adopt the 2024 International Energy Conservation Code and local amendments; and creating offenses.

Lead Department

Development Services Department

Fiscal Note

This item has no fiscal impact.

Prior Council Action:

June 3, 2021 - Council adopted the 2021 International Energy Conservation Code and local amendments on Mayor Pro Tem Harper-Madison's motion, Council Member Ellis' second on a 10-0 vote. Council Member Kelly was absent.

For More Information:

Todd Wilcox, Building Official (DSD), Todd.Wilcox@austintexas.gov, (512) 974-1681

Heidi Kasper, Director, Energy Efficiency Services, Heidi.Kasper@austinenergy.com, 512-482-5407

Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:

August 20, 2024 - Adoption of the 2021 International Energy Conservation Code and local amendments to be considered by the Resource Management Commission (RMC). <<vote info to be added>>

Additional Backup Information:

The International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) provides reduced energy use in both residential and commercial buildings. The 2024 IECC represents a significant change in energy efficiency from the 2021 version. The proposed ordinance reduces local amendments, provides more flexibility to the design community, and aligns with existing City climate goals. The Development Services Department, in collaboration with Austin Energy Green Building, conducted stakeholder engagement through the Speak Up Austin platform.

For the 2024 IECC, energy efficiency increases in the commercial sector look to be in the range of 13% as a weighted average across all building types over existing code. For residential construction, savings of 4-7% are anticipated across all building types. Specific changes to the current code include:

- Requires new commercial energy code buildings over 10,000 square feet to provide renewable energy systems of 0.5 W/ft² based on the combined gross conditioned floor area of the three largest floors. This also impacts multifamily buildings 5 stories or greater in height.
- Inclusion of Electrical Energy Storage System Readiness Appendix for all new commercial buildings
- Inclusion of Electric Ready Appendixes for all new buildings
- Inclusion of Electric Vehicle Readiness Appendixes for all new buildings
- Provides a great number of choices for designers to choose from to meet additional energy efficiency requirements in sections C406 and R408.
- Requires tighter building envelopes for new buildings.

- Requires residential bathrooms with intermittent exhaust fans to include controls to help remove excess moisture.
- Reduces prescriptive requirement of attic insulation in residential buildings from R49 to R38 to allow more cost-effective approaches to achieve energy efficiency.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Safety, Health and the Environment, Government that Works for All