

To: International Code Council  
From: Craig Conner  
Re: IECC development process

The ICC standards process is a better process for developing future versions of the IECC. My opinion is based on being involved with both the existing IECC development process and the standards development process for more than 20 years.

The ICC standards process is more suitable for complex changes that will benefit from the more deliberative standards process. For example, the addition of a complicated new appendix. Further, the standards process is best able to look at the coherence of the IECC as a whole.

The ICC standards process is more likely to attract the extended involvement of those with the most relevant expertise. Those with backgrounds in building design, building construction, energy technology and code enforcement are very important to the IECC development. The process needs those who will take time to evaluate proposals, rather than those who want to use the IECC as a tool to make public policy.

As shown by the last code cycle, the existing IECC process is too vulnerable to mass-marketing voting drives. These voting drives advertise big impact without much investment of the voter's time. I suspect many, perhaps even most, of the voters in the last online IECC vote did not even read the proposals and supporting information.

As a result of the mass-marketing voting drives the 2021 IECC is not as usable. Multiple changes to the IECC that were disapproved in both the first and second hearing were approved in the online vote. Multiple times the mass-marketing voting drives overturned twice disapproved residential code proposals. The newest IECC will likely be less adopted.

Future versions of the IECC should be developed with the ICC standards process.