



INTERNATIONAL  
CODE  
COUNCIL®

# Energy Newsletter

## International Code Council

### January 2024 Energy and Sustainability Updates

*This is an ongoing series of bi-monthly emails that includes updates from the International Code Council's Energy Team on everything from energy grants to standards development. Visit [www.iccsafe.org/energy](http://www.iccsafe.org/energy) for more information.*

#### Top News

- Last month, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) [announced \\$530 million](#) to be awarded through new competitive grant funding to support states, territories, and local and tribal governments seeking to adopt the 2021 and subsequent IECC editions as well as the IECC's zero energy appendices. Of the \$530 million, between 40 and 200 awards will be made, with funding ranging from \$1 to \$20 million, with no cost-sharing requirements. **The deadline to submit concept papers to DOE is February 9, 2024, with full applications due April 30, 2024**, to be eligible for the first round of funded projects. It's noted that all funding may be awarded in the first round. DOE will host an informational webinar on the Equivalence Methodology on Thursday, February 1 from 2:00-3:00 PM Eastern (register [here](#)). Additional information is included within the full [Funding Opportunity Announcement \(FOA\)](#). [Click here](#) for the Code Council's factsheet on this new opportunity. Our team is available for grant application assistance. [Read more here](#).
- The extended deadline for states and territories to submit Letters of Intent (LOI) for the DOE State and Community Energy Programs' (SCEP) [Technical Assistance for the Adoption of Building Energy Codes](#) formula funding is now **January 31, 2024**. The program provides funding for adopting or achieving full compliance with the latest model energy codes and zero energy codes (2021 International Energy Conservation Code and Zero Energy Appendices). Contact [federalgrants@iccsafe.org](mailto:federalgrants@iccsafe.org) for assistance. An optional [template letter of intent](#) is available to download. *If states do not submit an LOI, they will lose the opportunity to access these funds. States are encouraged to submit an LOI even if their plans to update are uncertain at this time.*
- The DOE has developed part 1 of a draft definition for zero emissions buildings, applicable to existing buildings and new construction of non-federally owned buildings. DOE released a [request for information \(RFI\)](#) to solicit comments, data, information, and other feedback from industry, academia, research laboratories, government agencies, and other stakeholders on Part 1 of a draft National Definition for a Zero Emissions Building. **Comments are due to DOE on February 5, 2024.** [Read more here](#).
- The Commonwealth of Virginia becomes the first state to adopt ICC/MBI Standards 1200 and 1205 as a part of their adoption package of the International Code Council's suite of 2021 International Codes®. [ICC/MBI Standard 1200-2021: Standard for Off-Site Construction: Planning, Design,](#)

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[Fabrication, and Assembly](#) and [ICC/MBI Standard 1205-2021: Standard for Off-Site Construction: Inspection and Regulatory Compliance](#) provide best practices based on existing off-site construction programs and support consistency and efficiency in how off-site construction is approved and inspected. [Read more here.](#)

## 2024 IECC Development Process

- In accordance with Council Policy 1, the Code Council has received nine appeals on the 2024 International Energy Conservation Code. For additional details, see the [Notice of Appeals](#). More information on the remaining steps of the development process can be found [here](#).

## Training and Educational Resources

- The Code Council Training Department will host an ICC Learn Live Course, *What is Embodied Carbon?*, on Wednesday, January 31<sup>st</sup> at 1:00 PM Eastern. The online training session will explore what embodied carbon is and how EPDs are being used to reduce the carbon footprint of material usage in building and construction projects. [Register here.](#)
- The DOE Building Energy Codes Program hosts an ongoing Energy Code Webinar Series, with an event the third Thursday of every month at 1 pm ET. The February topic is Addressing Existing Buildings: Building Performance Standards and Implementation Support Tools. Read more about this offering and catch up on the series [here](#).
- A Credential of Learning Achievement (CLA) in Renewable Energy Systems is now available from ICC and IAEI. Through achieving this CLA, individuals will be able to apply their knowledge and skills to various renewable energy systems such as Photovoltaics (PV), Energy Storage Systems (ESS) and Wind Electrical Systems (Turbine) for plan review and inspection by regulators as well as for design and installation by other industry professionals such as designers and installers. [View the path to achieving a Renewable Energy CLA here.](#)

## Standards Development

- ICC and the Modular Building Institute (MBI) completed development of a new off-site construction standard as part of ICC's 1200 series of standards. [ICC/MBI 1210-2023, Standard for Mechanical, Electrical, Plumbing Systems, Energy Efficiency and Water Conservation in Off-site Construction](#), addresses mechanical, electrical and plumbing system elements (MEP) used in off-site construction with respect to energy efficiency, water conservation, planning, designing, fabricating, transporting, and assembly within commercial and residential buildings. This includes the componentization and modularization of elements of MEP systems, the incorporation of MEP systems in componentized, panelized or modularized building elements, and the achievement of energy efficiency and water conservation requirements in off-site construction. [Learn more here.](#)
- The next meeting of RESNET/ICC Standards Development Committee 1400—Water and Energy Remote Virtual Inspection (WERVI)—is February 13, 2024, at 1:00 PM Eastern. [Learn more here.](#)

## ICC-Evaluation Service (ICC-ES)

- ICC-ES has unveiled a new certification program, Safe and Sustainable Cabinetry (SASC) Program, that utilizes its proprietary Environmental Criteria for Safe and Sustainable Cabinetry (EC118) to provide

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independent and comprehensive third-party verification for cabinet manufacturers on the performance, sustainability and environmental requirements outlined in EC118. [Learn more about the program here.](#)

- ICC-ES recently issued 2 new Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs) for Enclos Corp. ICC-ES is an accredited third party EPD Program Operator providing EPD verification for manufacturers to support their environmental claims and demonstrate compliance with the International Green Construction Code (IgCC) or “Buy Clean” requirements. [Learn more about EPDs here.](#)

## Energy and Resilience Grants

- With deadlines rapidly approaching on a diverse array of federal grant support on code adoption and implementation activities, the International Code Council’s federal grants team has prepared a [suite of new resources](#) to help communities better navigate these opportunities.
- The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) [Fiscal Year 2023 \(FY23\) Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\)](#) is available which includes an unprecedented opportunity for federal funding to support building code updates, administration and implementation in your jurisdictions. FEMA’s 2023 Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant program includes a new Building Codes Plus Up program, with \$137 million in dedicated funding for code projects. [Click here](#) to learn more and reach out to [federalgrants@iccsafe.org](mailto:federalgrants@iccsafe.org) for help.
- Based on the release of the Resilient and Efficient Codes Implementation (RECI) NOFO for FY22, we are expecting the release of FY23 RECI NOFO soon. Keep your eyes out for more details. In the meantime, learn more about RECI:
  - [Resilient and Efficient Codes Implementation Solutions](#)
  - [FAQs on RECI Funding](#)
- The International Code Council is prepared to assist communities in seeking federal grants to support code-related activities. [Click here to learn more](#) or contact Stella Carr (Energy and Resilience Grants Manager) at [scarr@iccsafe.org](mailto:scarr@iccsafe.org) to schedule a consultation.

## Building Safety Journal

- Check out the International Code Council’s [Building Safety Journal](#), which features articles relevant to current trends and hot topics within the building safety industry. New featured articles include:
  - [How Lexington, Kentucky Used BRIC Funding for Building Department Accreditation](#)
  - [Jerica Stacey Nominated for Leadership in Energy Efficiency Award as Part of the Idaho Energy Code Collaborative](#)
  - [International Code Council Participates at COP28 to Advance Building Solutions for Climate Mitigation and Adaptation](#)
  - [The CRS Highlights the International Codes in Updated Resource to Better Understand Building Safety](#)
  - [Creating a More Sustainable, Affordable and Inclusive Housing Market](#)
  - [Three Decades of Excellence: The Code Council Launches Year-Long Celebration Marking 30 Years of Building Safety and Innovation](#)
- **Submit an article for consideration in the Building Safety Journal.** The Building Safety Journal is accepting editorial submissions for categories that include deep dives, technical topics, personal perspectives, member news, and quick hits. [Click here to learn more and submit.](#)

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## Code on a Mission Campaign: 2021 IECC

- The International Code Council's [Code on a Mission](#) challenge achieved a significant milestone by surpassing its original goal of covering over a third of the U.S. population (115 million Americans) with energy codes based on the 2021 IECC or its equivalent by the end of 2023. As of December 18, 2023, more than 119 million Americans will now benefit from modern energy codes based on the 2021 IECC. Check out the Code Council's [resources](#) to help support your jurisdiction. [Read more here.](#)

## Committees

- [Sustainability, Energy & High Performance Building Code Action Committee \(SEHPCAC\)](#)
  - SEHPCAC meetings are open to the public. The [next meeting](#) will be held on February 7, 2024, at 2:00 PM Eastern.
- [Sustainability Membership Council \(SMC\)](#)
  - Find out what the SMC is doing to support healthy and sustainable buildings in your community. The next meeting will be on March 1, 2024. An [agenda](#) will be posted prior to the meeting.
  - Congratulations to the SMC's newly elected Chair, Don Mock; Vice Chair, Patricia Chawla; and Secretary, Chris Clausung. We appreciate your ongoing leadership!
  - The SMC is also happy to announce the addition of two individuals to the Governing Council: Sandy Gallo and Khaled Tarabieh, Ph.D. Sandy is the Vice President at Building Efficiency Resources (BER) and is a Master Infrared Thermographer, IECC Residential Energy Inspector and Plans Examiner, RESNET Quality Assurance Designee, RESENT Rater Instructor, and HERS Rater, among other designations. Khaled is the University Architect and an Associate Professor of Sustainable Design at the American University in Cairo (AUC). He provides professional training and support in the areas of LEED, EDGE, and BREEAM certification, green building design, and sustainable urban planning. Welcome, Sandy and Khaled!
  - Join the SMC for a casual coffee hour on February 16 from 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM Eastern. This month's topic is Habitability and Minimum Comfort. Future coffee hours will occur on the third Friday of every month.
    - Meeting ID: [943 1788 2063](#); Passcode: [458626](#)
    - Follow the SMC on social media: [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#).

## Partner Activities

- **Conversation is What is Driving Change in the Growing Energy Industry.** The permitting and inspection of solar PV and battery energy storage systems is becoming an increasingly large part of an already heavy workload for building officials. Understanding the safe installation of these technologies while also ensuring firefighter access is critical to interpreting code provisions, accurately and efficiently reviewing permit applications, and conducting thorough field inspections. Significant investment has been made in education and training, but what seems to be moving the dial in an even more significant way is conversation - different stakeholders sharing their points of view, and more importantly, taking another perspective. In late 2023 the Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC) convened a group of solar PV experts—an installer, manufacturer, wiring and building inspectors, and fire chiefs—to discuss their perspectives on four common issues in the safe

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installation of solar PV and battery energy storage systems. Listen in to [Conversations From the Field](#) to uncover insights from diverse stakeholders shaping the future of solar PV systems!

- **Life-Saving Energy Codes: What Building Safety Officials Need to Know.** Modern building codes ensure greater structural integrity, safer wiring, and more adequate fire prevention. See how modern building energy codes also contribute to the reduction of casualties, costs, and damages from disasters [here](#).
- **Stay Ahead of the Game with Education and Training of On-Site Renewable Energy and High-Performance Buildings.** Stay informed and confident as the energy industry transforms. Invest in your education and training with free educational resources and CEU bearing courses from leading industry organizations, including the Code Council, at [CleanEnergyClearinghouse.org](#).