



International Code Council

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On behalf of the International Code Council (ICC), I would like to commend the State of Rhode Island for its outstanding work to ensure the safety, health and well being of its citizens. The proposed rules for RI Green Buildings Act will have a tremendously positive effect on safety and sustainability in the built environment.

The International Green Construction Code (IGCC) was developed over an eight month period by a broad-based, 29 member Sustainable Building Technology Committee, with input from more than 100 Work Group members composed of experts in government, business and academia, code development and environmental advocacy who contributed 10,000 hours of development time and attended several hundred meetings. The IGCC is the first green construction document written in mandatory enforcement type language, complete with electives for jurisdictions to use as they see fit. It acts as an overlay for the IBC or any code with the IBC at its core. It applies to the construction of traditional and high-performance buildings, structures and systems, including alterations and additions for new and existing structures. The IGCC has been designated to coordinate and integrate with the health and safety features of the existing International Codes which the State has recently adopted and existing rating systems such as LEED.

The IGCC aims to significantly reduce energy uses and greenhouse gases. It addresses site development and land use, including preservation of natural and material resources. Enforcement of the code will improve air quality and support the use of energy efficient appliances, renewable energy systems, water resource conservation, rainwater collection and distribution systems and the recovery of used water (gray water). Additional key components of the IGCC focus on energy and water conservation and efficiency where specific guidance includes topics of mandated reductions in potable water consumption, CO₂ emissions rates, and integration with the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) currently enforced in Rhode Island. The IGCC addresses how a building can positively impact the land it occupies, as well as reduce the negative consequences that its presence may have on existing natural resources. The IGCC emphasizes building performance, including features such as a requirement for building system performance verification and building owner education to ensure the best energy efficient practices. There is even a section of the code dedicated to jurisdictional electives that will allow customization of the code beyond its baseline provisions to address local priorities and conditions.

The ICC has developed free training webinars which are offered online as well as other classroom training, certification exams and contractor testing to ensure that states and jurisdictions are provided the necessary tools to support the adoption and proper enforcement of the IGCC.



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The IGCC was initiated by the ICC along with Cooperating Sponsors: the American Institute of Architects (AIA) and ASTM International as well as ASHRAE, the USGBC and the Illuminating Engineering Society (IES). It has been endorsed by the US Conference of Mayors, and over 882 organizations have expressed their support of the IGCC.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide public comment of the proposed rules for the Green Buildings Act. I would be happy to provide you with further information if you have any questions. Additional information can be found at:

<http://www.iccsafe.org/cs/IGCC/Pages/default.aspx?r=IGCC>

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dorothy M. Harris".

Dorothy M. Harris
Vice President, State & Local Government Relations