



ICC NEWS RELEASE

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Jurisdictions Adopt International Green Construction Code

From Arizona to Rhode Island, IGCC Adoptions Set the Bar for Sustainable Construction

As Earth Day 2011 approaches, more jurisdictions are utilizing the new [International Green Construction Code](#) (IGCC) as a tool to address sustainable construction for new and existing buildings. Kayenta Township, Ariz., and Keene, N.H., are the most recent in a series of local and state governments that have adopted the IGCC, according to the International Code Council. These two actions follow earlier [adoptions by Richland, Wash.](#), and the state of [Rhode Island](#).

Keene is the first New Hampshire jurisdiction to adopt the IGCC and Kayenta is the first Native American tribal adoption and the first jurisdiction in Arizona to adopt the IGCC. The Code Council expects several more state and local adoptions of the IGCC within the next few months.

In March, the Fort Collins City Council voted to approve significant extractions from the IGCC and the National Green Building Standard, ICC 700, as part of green building code amendments to the city's building codes, which already includes nine I-Codes. The effective date for the provisions is January 2012.

Kayenta adopted the IGCC Public Version 2.0 on a voluntary basis and the code may be incorporated into the community's Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance. Kayenta adopted the code with specific requirements related to greenfields, conservation areas, and agricultural land.

The IGCC is an “Allowable Green Building System” in Keene, New Hampshire’s, Sustainable Energy Efficient Development zone, a voluntary urban incentive-based area that promotes green building and redevelopment in its downtown.

“The emergence of green building codes and standards is an important next step to provide communities with the opportunity to build sustainable and safe buildings,” Richard [P. Weiland](#), International Code Council Chief Executive Officer said. “We are pleased to recognize Kayenta Township and the Navajo Nation as the first Native American community in the United States to adopt the International Green Construction Code.”

The IGCC applies to new and existing, traditional and high-performance commercial buildings. It includes ANSI/ASHRAE/USGBC/IES Standard 189.1 as a compliance option. Coordinated with the ICC family of codes, the IGCC is designed to go beyond traditional code requirements for communities that are pursuing safe and sustainable construction.

The IGCC Public Version 2.0 offers a Zero Energy Performance Index (zEPI), requiring buildings to use no more than 51 percent of the energy allowable in the 2000 International Energy Conservation Code.

Examples of provisions in Public Version 2.0 include:

- A 20 percent water savings beyond U.S. federal standards for water closets in residential settings;
- New requirements for identification and removal of materials containing asbestos;
- Land use regulations including new provisions addressing flood risk, development limitations related to “greenfields,” use of turf grass and minimum landfill diversion requirements;
- Clarification of responsibilities from the registered design professional to the owner to prevent potential conflicts with state and local requirements; and
- Greater consistency with industry standards for air handling systems.

The IGCC’s cooperating sponsors are the [American Institute of Architects](#) (AIA), [ASTM International](#), the [American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Engineers](#) (ASHRAE), the [U.S. Green Building Council](#), and the [Illuminating Engineering Society](#) (IES).

IGCC will be published in 2012 after code development hearings in May and final hearings in November.

The [International Code Council](#), a membership association dedicated to building safety, fire prevention and energy efficiency, develops the codes used to construct residential and

commercial buildings, including homes and schools. Most U.S. cities, counties and states [choose the International Codes](#), building safety codes developed by the International Code Council. The International Codes also serve as the basis for construction of federal properties around the world, and as a reference for many nations outside the United States.

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