

Draft For Discussion Purposes Only

ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY BOARD

RSA 125-O:5-a
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, N.H. 03301-2429

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DRAFT Policy Statement on Current Energy Codes for Building Construction

The New Hampshire Energy Efficiency & Sustainable Energy Board (EESE Board) supports the adoption and implementation of modern energy codes and standards for building construction in our state. The EESE Board was created by the legislature “to promote and coordinate energy efficiency, demand response, and sustainable energy programs in New Hampshire.”¹ Its members include representatives of state agencies, consumers, the Legislature, nonprofit groups, and private industry.

The EESE Board considers the adoption of the most modern International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) a vital strategy for reducing energy use, thereby reducing direct costs to consumers for their fuel and utility purchases. The EESE Board has long recognized that energy efficiency and conservation are the least-cost energy resources available to our state. We further reiterate here that by taking advantage of recent technological advances - through adoption of modern building construction standards and code compliance strategies - New Hampshire consumers can benefit from reduced energy consumption costs over the lifetime of their homes and businesses.

The EESE Board recognizes that buildings are long-term assets and that each building constructed today could affect energy consumption for the next 50 to 100 years.² The EESE Board further recognizes that building-energy code adoption and compliance is one of the most cost-effective strategies for reducing fuel and utility costs otherwise born by the consumer.³ As the 2014 New Hampshire Ten-Year Energy Strategy recognizes, the cost savings of building energy code update and compliance efforts will help consumers keep more of their dollars in our local economy.⁴

Modeling studies of residential buildings produced by the U.S. Department of Energy demonstrate an energy consumption reduction of up to 30 percent between the technology and standards required in the 2009 edition of the IECC and the 2015 edition. These energy consumption reductions equate to an average of \$500 annually for single family homes in the southern tier of our state, with an average of \$640 annually in the northern tier. Over the life span of an average 30 year mortgage, consumers could realize between \$15,000 and \$19,000 of cost savings.⁵

Therefore, the EESE Board strongly encourages our partners in the Legislature to move forward with the adoption of the latest version of the International Energy Conservation Code. We also recommend that the document be adopted in its entirety without removing critical components that realize a direct savings in energy bills to the consumer.

The EESE Board membership stands ready to assist with educational programs for New Hampshire home builders, consumers, real estate agents, and the inspection and compliance community to help transition to the new energy codes. Adoption of modern energy codes and standards will help keep New Hampshire economically competitive and will provide cost savings for heating, cooling and lighting for homeowners.

¹ RSA 125-O:5-a Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Energy Board
Available at: <http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/X/125-O/125-O-5-a.htm>.

² US Department of Energy. [Quadrennial Technology Review. Supplemental Information](https://energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2016/10/f33/Ch1-SI-Additional-Information-on-Energy-Challenges.pdf). (2015) Page 19.
Available at: <https://energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2016/10/f33/Ch1-SI-Additional-Information-on-Energy-Challenges.pdf>

³ The Edison Foundation. [Utilities and Building Energy Codes: Air Quality and Energy Savings Opportunities](#). (Describing the cost of

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energy codes and standards as 1.1 cents/kWh, or 1/3 the cost of the average residential program) Available at:
http://www.imt.org/uploads/resources/files/IEE-IMT-UtilitiesAndBuildingEnergyCodes_FactSheet.pdf

⁴ New Hampshire Office of Energy and Planning. New Hampshire Ten Year State Energy Strategy. (2014) Page 31-35. Available at:
<https://www.nh.gov/osi/energy/programs/documents/energy-strategy.pdf>

⁵ US Department of Energy and Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. Cost-Effectiveness Analysis of the Residential Provisions of the 2015 IECC for New Hampshire. (2016) This assumes \$1.96/gallon of heating oil, \$0.89/therm of natural gas, and \$0.16/kWh. Information was obtained from the NH Office of Energy and Planning “Fuel Prices” website, <http://www.nh.gov/oep/energy/energy-nh/fuel-prices/index.htm> on February 25, 2016. Available at:
https://www.pnnl.gov/main/publications/external/technical_reports/PNNL-24937Rev1.pdf

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