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STATE & COMMUNITY ENERGY PROGRAMS

IRA Technical Assistance for Latest and Zero Building Energy Code Adoption

**Stakeholder Webinar
Request for Information and Notice of Intent
April 2023**



Outline of Today's Discussion

- Welcome Remarks from State and Community Energy Programs Office
- Overview of the IRA Codes Program
- Adoption of Latest Energy Codes, Zero Energy Codes
- Or Equivalent Codes and Standards, including Building Performance Standards
- Compliance Plans
- Eligible Activities and Other Funding Sources
- Stakeholder Open Questions
- Next Steps and Wrap Up





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IRA Funded Technical Assistance for Building Energy Codes

\$1 Billion in funding to make U.S. building
stock cleaner and more efficient

Section 50131 Technical Assistance for Latest and Zero Building Energy Code Adoption

Highlights

- **\$330 million** to adopt the latest building energy code, which are 2021 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) for residential buildings and the ANSI/ASHRAE/IES Standard 90.1-2019 for commercial buildings or other codes and standards that achieve equivalent or greater energy savings; and
- **\$670 million** to adopt a building energy code that meets or exceeds the zero energy provisions in the 2021 IECC code or other codes and standards with equivalent or greater energy savings.

Who will you hear from today?



Ashley Armstrong
IRA Codes Program Manager



Harry Bergmann
BPS & Zero Codes Lead

How Can You Participate?

DOE is interested in your feedback!

- 1. Mentimeter:** We'll be using this tool to raise key questions—you'll have the ability to respond to these through a variety of interactive formats
- 2. Chat:** Ask questions or comment via the "Chat" feature - we'll address those and share with the group during the Q&A portion at the end
- 3. Resources:** Slides and session recording will be available on the SCEP website afterwards

You can provide more detailed written comments in the RFI. Submit to IRAcodes@hq.doe.gov no later than 5:00 p.m. (ET) on April 26, 2023.

Getting to Know Your Audience



Please enter the code

1234 5678

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The code is found on the screen in front of you

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5228 7404

Enter the code at top of the webpage

OR

Navigate directly to:

<https://www.menti.com/al6syad6hujk>

Latest Building Energy Codes, Zero Energy Codes, or Equivalent Codes and Standards

What is a Building Energy Code?

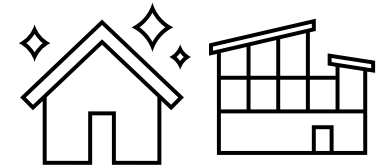
Energy codes set minimum efficiency requirements for new and renovated buildings that govern building construction around building energy using components

Traditional Building Energy Code Adoption Varies by State

- Adoption at the state level and allow localities to exceed state code (Min states)
- Adoption at the state level and prohibition on localities exceeding state code (Min/Max states)
- No statewide code allowing local governments to establish energy codes (Home rule states)

IRA Funding to Lift All States

- Codes must be implementable, verifiable, and able to be enforced
- Codes can be applicable to new or existing buildings (residential and commercial)



Great savings for states that adopt and enforce model codes

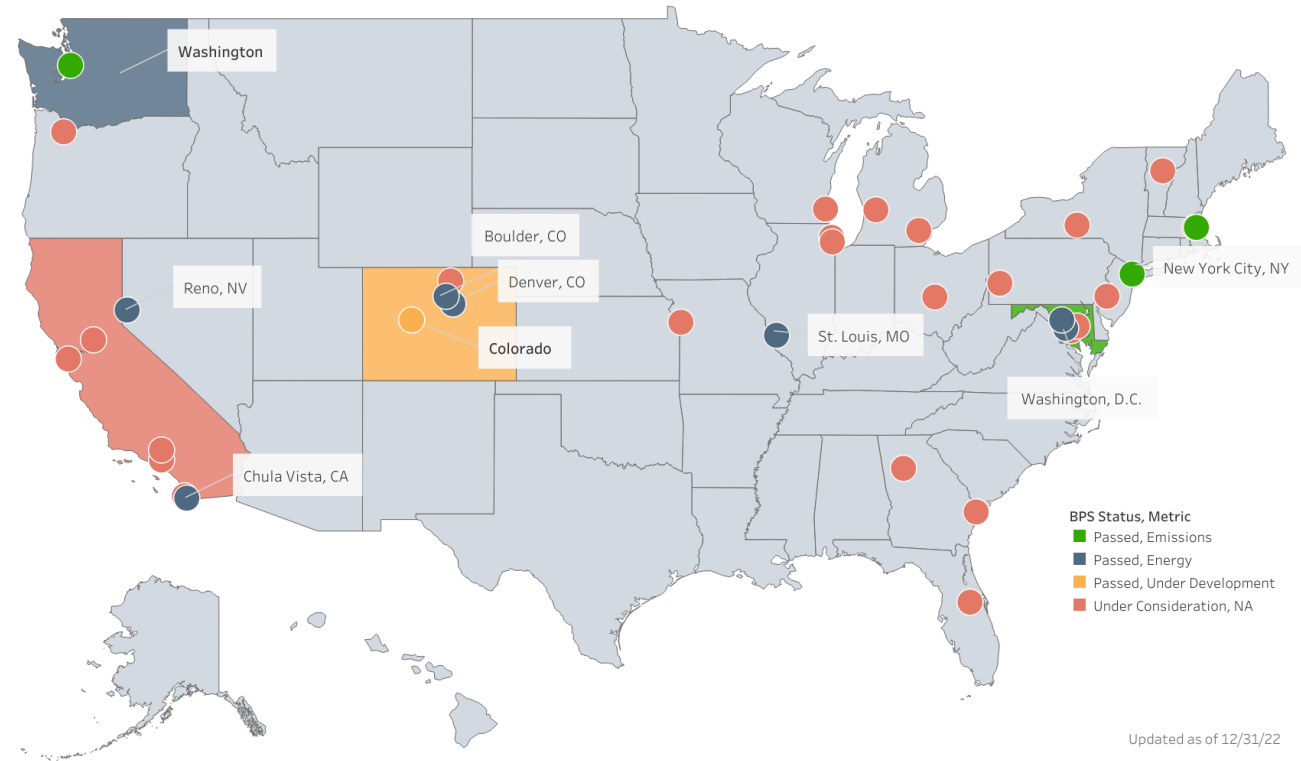


More savings possible with more pathways to achieve high-efficiency buildings

\$1B for the latest building energy codes, zero energy codes, or equivalent for new construction and existing buildings.

- Enables states, counties, cities, and other jurisdictions with code making authority to lead the way on **decarbonizing the building stock**.
- Codes are typically used to “raise the floor” – this opportunity **lets jurisdictions** address all ends of the building stock.
- Codes and standards are cross-cutting and will create more inclusive programs that align with the Administration’s Justice40 priorities and **build capacity** at the State/local level.

State and Local Building Performance Standards

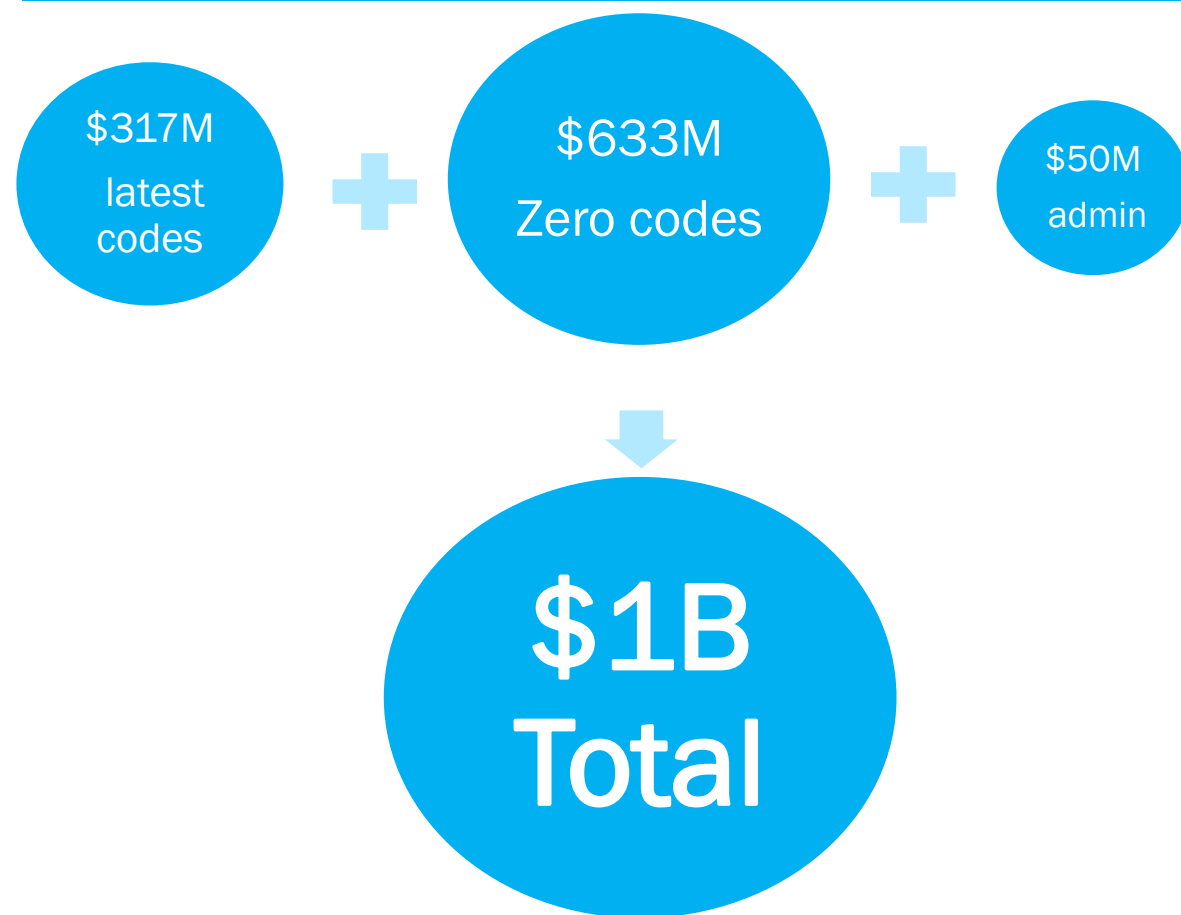


Jurisdictions with public commitments for advancing building performance standards already account for over 25% of the nation’s building footprint (near 20 billion ft²)

Section 50131 Provisions

- Grants to States and units of local government with code making authority to:
 - adopt the latest model building energy codes or equivalent codes
 - adopt zero energy codes or equivalent

Funding Details



Timeframe: Funds to be available through September 30, 2029

Incentivizing Action - Discussion

Q: How can DOE incentivize rapid adoption of codes or standards with long-term commitment to robust compliance activities?

Please add ideas in the chat.

Building Performance Standards (BPS) are a common example of a code or standard for renovated buildings that could be considered to be able to deliver "equivalent or greater energy savings."

Q: What guidance should DOE provide applicants around "equivalent or greater energy savings," including both timeframe over which savings must be achieved, and scope of where savings occur? How should emissions reductions be considered?

Q: How can DOE incentivize innovative Building Performance Standards, including standards that focus on affordable and sustainable housing for underserved communities?

Q: What types of existing building codes or standards (e.g., building performance standards) should be considered? Should these existing-building codes or standards be encouraged to focus on particular types of buildings?

Q: Stakeholder and community engagement are critical components for designing an inclusive existing-building policy driving toward equitable outcomes. What critical considerations should be included when evaluating community impacts for equitable outcomes and workforce opportunities under an existing-building code or standard?

Compliance Plan

Section 50131 Provisions

Grant recipient must have a compliance plan consisting of:

- implementation plan to achieve full compliance with any building energy code adopted with grants funds for new and renovated residential or commercial buildings;
- active training and enforcement programs; and
- measurement of the rate of compliance each year

Q: The IRA requires each jurisdiction receiving funds to implement a plan to achieve full compliance.

Emphasizing that full compliance refers to 100% of buildings subject to the energy code/standard meeting all aspects of that code or standard:

- a. How should DOE require jurisdictions to demonstrate full compliance? Through audits of completed buildings? Through design evaluations at permitting? Through demonstrated reductions in energy consumption in the relevant building stock? Through another approach? In what scenarios would different approaches be appropriate?
- b. Should there be a timeframe for when full compliance must be achieved? Should this be a set timeframe, or should it be partially dependent on the degree to which an energy code is improved?
- c. Given that existing building codes or standards necessarily have longer timelines for compliance, should there be minimum thresholds set on the amount of time required or permitted before the first assessment of compliance by covered facilities?

Timeframe: Funds to be available through September 30, 2029

Q: The IRA requires an “active training” program as part of the compliance plan.

- a. What should constitute an “active training” program? What metrics should DOE track to demonstrate a program is “active”?
- b. If a jurisdiction does not have a training program, what should be the allowable timeframe to establish such a program?
- c. What best practices and/or replicable models have states, AHJs, or others implemented with demonstrated success?
- d. What resources could DOE provide to help jurisdictions establish training programs?

Q: The IRA requires an “active enforcement” program as part of the compliance plan.

- a. What should constitute an “enforcement program” for both codes and building performance standards? What metrics should an AHJ track to demonstrate a program is “active”?
- b. If a jurisdiction does not have an enforcement program, what should be the allowable timeframe to establish such a program?
- c. What best practices and/or replicable models have states or AHJs implemented with demonstrated success? What resources were required to achieve success?
- d. What guidance, templates, or other resources could DOE provide to help jurisdictions establish enforcement programs?

Q: What equity considerations should DOE incorporate into any guidance or plans, especially surrounding workforce and training?

Eligible Activities and Other Funding Sources

What Can IRA Funds Support?

- Technical Assistance for
 - Latest building energy code adoption
 - Zero Energy (ZE) code adoption, or
 - Equivalent Building Policies/Standards for new and existing buildings
- Workforce Training
- Compliance/Enforcement Support
- Tools and Analysis
- Education & Outreach
- Implementation Assistance
- Capacity Building
- Resilience (better construction practices)
- Q: What tools or services should DOE provide to support grantees?

Other Funding Sources Questions

Q: How can DOE encourage coordination between BIL and IRA codes funding and aid States and localities in developing a holistic plan for adoption, implementation, and compliance?

Q: How should funding under other federal programs (e.g., BIL Section 40109: State Energy Program, BIL Section 40552: Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program, other federal programs, or tax incentives for efficient buildings) be leveraged to maximize the impact of the IRA codes funding?

Q: How can IRA building energy codes funding best leverage other sources of funding from states, utility programs, and others?

Q: Should DOE prioritize projects that leverage other funding sources?

Open Discussions for Additional Stakeholder Questions/Feedback

**Residential &
Commercial Building
Energy Codes**
SEC. 50131

Amount: \$1,000,000,000

Through: September 30, 2029

Recipient: Jurisdictions with the authority to adopt building codes

RFI is OPEN!
Comments due April
26th

Learn more: [SCEP Building Codes](#)

Submit RFI Comments
and Contact us:
IRAcodes@hq.doe.gov



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