

**Iowa Building Code Officials
Survey Marginals**

Hello, my name is _____ and I'm calling from RMA Research on behalf of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. We are conducting a brief, 10-minute survey with Community Building Code Officials. The results of the survey will be used to identify any barriers or opportunities involved in adopting and enforcing building energy codes, and to help improve the DNR's related services. Your opinions are very important to us.

Gender

81	TOTAL ANSWERING
93.8%	Male
6.2%	Female

Q1 Are you familiar with Iowa's current Building Energy Codes?

81	TOTAL ANSWERING
84.0%	Yes
16.0%	No
	Don't know/not sure

Q2 What building energy code(s) has/have your community adopted?

81	TOTAL ANSWERING
28.4%	1992 Model Energy Code (92-MEC) [residential building code]
3.7%	American Society of Heating, Refrigeration, and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE 90.1-1989) [commercial building code]
29.6%	2000 International Energy Conservation Code (2000 IECC) [combined version of the two codes listed above]
7.4%	2003 International Energy Conservation Code (2003 IECC) [updated version of the code listed directly above]
23.5%	None of the above
1.2%	Don't know/refused
	Other [specify]
2.5%	Uniform building codes
1.2%	1997 Model Energy Code
1.2%	1994 Building Energy Code
1.2%	Iowa State Building Code

Q2A Does your community plan to adopt any new building energy code(s) within the next year?

81	TOTAL ANSWERING
14.8%	Yes
76.5%	No
8.6%	Don't know/not sure

Q2B If so, which building energy code(s) does/do your community plan to adopt within the next year?

12	Base: Plan to adopt (Q2A)
	1992 Model Energy Code (92-MEC) [residential building code]
	American Society of Heating, Refrigeration, and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE 90.1-1989) [commercial building code]
8.3%	2000 International Energy Conservation Code (2000 IECC) [combined version of the two codes listed above]
83.3%	2003 International Energy Conservation Code (2003 IECC) [updated version of the code listed directly above]
	None of the above
8.3%	Don't know/refused
	Other [specify]

Q3 How familiar are you with the 2003 IECC residential building energy code and/or the ASHRAE 90.1-1999 commercial building energy code?

81	TOTAL ANSWERING
4.9%	Very familiar
50.6%	Somewhat familiar
43.2%	Not at all familiar
1.2%	Don't know/refused

Q3A Do you think that the state's current building energy codes are adequate, or would you like to see newer codes enacted?

81	TOTAL ANSWERING
30.9%	Current building energy codes are adequate
49.4%	Newer codes should be adopted
3.7%	Neither current nor newer building energy codes are adequate
16.0%	Don't know/not sure

Q4 What State of Iowa governmental agency would you contact if you had questions regarding the adoption and/or enforcement of Iowa's Building Energy Codes?

81	TOTAL ANSWERING
33.3%	Department of Public Safety. [Fire Marshall's Office]
16.0%	Department of Natural Resources
17.3%	Don't know/refused
13.6%	Other [specify]
19.8%	Building Code Commission/Commissioner/State Building Department

Q5 In the past year, have you contacted that particular state agency with questions regarding building energy codes that your community has or plans to have?

67	Base: Named Agency (Q4)
14.9%	Yes
85.1%	No
	Don't know/refused

Q5A Were you able to get the information that you needed?

10	Base: Contacted state agency? (5)
90.0%	Yes
10.0%	No
	Don't know/Don't remember

Q5B On a scale of 1-to-5, with 1 being 'very helpful', and 5 being 'not at all helpful', how would you rate your interaction with that state agency when you were seeking advice on building energy codes?

10	Base: Contacted state agency (Q5)
60.0%	1. Very Helpful
20.0%	2.
10.0%	3.
	4.
10.0%	5. Not at all Helpful
	Don't know/refused

Q6 Now, I'm going to read you a statement and I'd like you to tell me if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree. Building energy codes help save money, improve the long-term quality and comfort of buildings, and enhance the housing stock and economic growth of the community.

81	TOTAL ANSWERING
81.5%	Strongly agree
18.5%	Somewhat agree
	Somewhat disagree
	Strongly disagree
	Don't know/refused

Q7 Currently, Iowa communities can choose to adopt and enforce building energy codes locally. On a scale of 1-to-5, with 1 being 'not at all difficult', and 5 being 'extremely difficult', in the course of your work, how difficult is it, or would it be, for you to adopt and enforce your local building energy codes?

81	TOTAL ANSWERING
21.0%	1. Not at all difficult
35.8%	2.
14.8%	3.
16.0%	4.
11.1%	5. Extremely difficult
1.2%	Don't know/refused

Q7A Why do you say that?

81	TOTAL ANSWERING
12.3%	Budget constraints
18.5%	Political considerations
14.8%	Rational codes are easy to enforce
24.7%	Already enforcing codes
7.4%	Contractor resistance
6.2%	Public education
8.6%	Other
6.2%	Paperwork/Complexity
1.2%	Don't know

Q8 What would you say are the greatest obstacles you did, or would, face when ADOPTING your community's building energy code(s)? [Do not read list, probe and clarify responses] [Multiple Select]

81	TOTAL ANSWERING
22.2%	Opposition or resistance from building contractors/developers
14.8%	Opposition from other groups or individuals
35.8%	Lack of information on building energy codes
2.5%	Lack of local advocates for building energy codes
3.7%	Lack of local suppliers of energy efficient materials, equipment or design engineers
4.9%	Lack of interest in or attention to building energy code adoption or enforcement
13.6%	Lack of staff and financial resources
12.3%	Lack of priority by community council/government
	Adoption of building energy codes is not the respondent's responsibility
11.1%	Don't Know
11.1%	Other

Q9 What would you say are the greatest obstacles you did, or would, face when ENFORCING your community's building energy codes? [Do not read list, probe and clarify responses] [Multiple Select]

81	TOTAL ANSWERING
14.8%	Opposition or resistance from building contractors/developers
9.9%	Opposition from other groups or individuals
27.2%	Lack of information on building energy codes
1.2%	Lack of local advocates for building energy codes
1.2%	Lack of local suppliers of energy efficient materials, equipment, or design engineers
2.5%	Lack of interest in or attention to building energy code adoption or enforcement
24.7%	Lack of staff and financial resources
	Lack of priority by community council/government
30.9%	Don't Know
11.1%	Other

Q10 What do you think might DISFAVOR adopting and/or enforcing building energy codes on the local level?

81	TOTAL ANSWERING
25.9%	Energy efficient buildings cost more money to build. Quality construction practices are already in practice in our community. Building energy codes do not increase the long-term quality and comfort of the buildings.
1.2%	Building energy codes have little impact on affordable housing.
1.2%	Would not ensure that builders are consistent in their construction practices.
4.9%	Would not provide an "even playing field" that all builders can conform to.
18.5%	Building energy codes are not or cannot be enforced on a local level due to lack of staff, funding, or resources.
29.6%	Don't know/not sure
9.9%	Other [specify]
4.9%	Contractors/Builders
1.2%	Too costly
8.6%	Resistance to government/Over regulation
4.9%	Too many inconsistencies

Q11 What do you think might FAVOR adopting and/or enforcing building energy codes on the local level?

81	TOTAL ANSWERING
45.7%	Energy efficient buildings save money.
16.0%	Community development would be enhanced by higher quality construction practices.
17.3%	Long-term quality and comfort of buildings would be improved.
1.2%	The community would have more affordable housing.
2.5%	Builders would tend to be more consistently proficient in their construction practices.
6.2%	Builders would compete on a more "level playing field"; all being held to the same standards.
18.5%	Local adoption and enforcement provides better application of the codes.
4.9%	Don't know/not sure
12.3%	Other [specify]
12.3%	Education

Q12 The state of Iowa and the U.S. Department of Energy are the primary institutions responsible for developing building energy codes. Do you feel that they provide you with the adequate resources and support you need to do your job effectively?

81	TOTAL ANSWERING
38.3%	Yes
46.9%	No
14.8%	Don't know/refused

Q13 What, if anything, would make it easier for you to adopt and enforce Iowa Building Energy Codes?

81	TOTAL ANSWERING
9.9%	More staff to assist you.
6.2%	More state, rather than local enforcement
	Less state involvement
1.2%	More/better economic support
12.3%	More/better access to available resources
30.9%	More/better educational programs
14.8%	Don't know/nothing
9.9%	Other [specify]
8.6%	Statewide/Standard codes
6.2%	Less complex

Q14 How long have you been in your current position as an Iowa Building Code official?

81	TOTAL ANSWERING
2.5%	Less than 1 year
13.6%	1-3 years
44.4%	4-7 years
2.5%	8-10 years
11.1%	10-14 years
25.9%	15 years or longer
	Don't know/refused

Q15 Generally speaking, in the time you've been a Building Code Official, do you think your job has become more difficult, less difficult, or has stayed about the same?

81	TOTAL ANSWERING
45.7%	More difficult
21.0%	Less difficult
33.3%	About the same
	Don't know/refused

Q15A Why do you say that?

81	TOTAL ANSWERING
21.0%	Codes more complex
11.1%	Lack of resources/Budget constraints
9.9%	About the same as when started
13.6%	Workload/Codes to enforce have increased
3.7%	Don't know/New to job
2.5%	Good relationship with contractors
12.3%	Other
2.5%	Change difficult/Constant education of public/contractors
2.5%	Politics/Bureaucracy
13.6%	More support/understanding
7.4%	Know job better

Q16 Finally, would you like to receive more information about Iowa's current energy building codes, and the resources available to assist you in adopting and enforcing them?

81	TOTAL ANSWERING
81.5%	Yes
18.5%	No
	Don't know/refused