National Initiative to Advance Building Codes
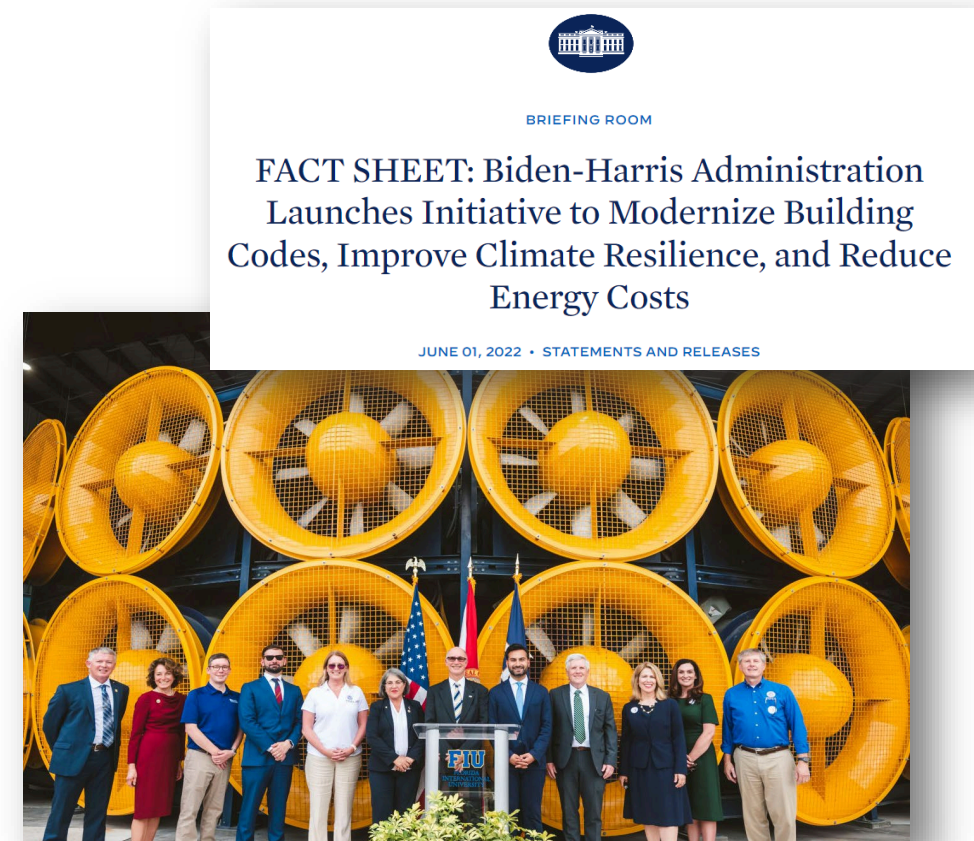
2023 National Energy Codes Conference
Chicago, IL

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Implemented by the Mitigation Framework Leadership Group (MitFLG) Building Codes Task Force (BCTF)

Background: Origins of the NIABC

- The White House National Climate Task Force directed Mitigation Framework Leadership Group (MitFLG) to spearhead the NIABC

- The MitFLG formed the Building Codes Task Force (BCTF). BCTF Federal agencies were asked to:
  - ✓ Conduct a landscape analysis
  - ✓ Create federal implementation plans
  - ✓ Update and amend programs and guidance
  - ✓ Submit progress reports to the White House

- Funding opportunities to advance building codes:
  - Bipartisan Infrastructure Law - $550 billion in America's infrastructure and built environment
  - Inflation Reduction Act - $370 billion in investments for energy cost savings, clean energy solutions, and good paying-jobs

BRIEFING ROOM

FACT SHEET: Biden-Harris Administration Launches Initiative to Modernize Building Codes, Improve Climate Resilience, and Reduce Energy Costs

JUNE 01, 2022 • STATEMENTS AND RELEASES

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Participating BCTF Federal Agencies

NIABC Key Priorities

Includes ALL codes, not just energy!

Modernize Building Codes

- Incentivize state, local, tribal and territorial governments to adopt and enforce current building codes
- Improve resilience to hazards
- Incorporate science and technology

Improve Climate Resilience

- Increase smart design and construction
- Build resilience to extreme weather events
- Save lives and reduce property damage

Reduce Energy Costs

- Increase energy efficiency
- Establish federal building performance standards
- Achieve net-zero emissions across federal buildings by 2045

Prioritize Underserved Communities

- Invest in capacity building for communities
- Provide tools to reduce damage and accelerate recovery
- Identify needs for rural and underserved communities

Create Good-Paying Jobs

- Develop workforce training partnerships
- Provide support to state and local agencies
- Prioritize needs of disadvantaged communities

NIABC Key Activities

From NIABC Fact Sheet:

- **Comprehensively review federal funding and financing** of building construction to ensure federally-supported housing and other building projects follow modern building codes and standards to the greatest extent feasible

- **Provide incentives and support for communities** to adopt current building codes and standards by providing technical assistance, implementing proven strategies and best practices

- **Lead by example** across the federal building portfolio by seizing opportunities to advance "above-code" resilience and energy efficiency standards in new projects.

*You can see how these activities are set in motion in the December 2022 NIABC Progress Report.

FEDERAL FUNDING refers to assistance in the form of grants, cooperative agreements or direct assistance.

FEDERAL FINANCING refers to guaranteed loans, insured loans or mortgage insurance.

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BCTF Subgroups

Provide targeted support to agencies developing implementation plans, including:

- Recommendations

- Sample implementation language
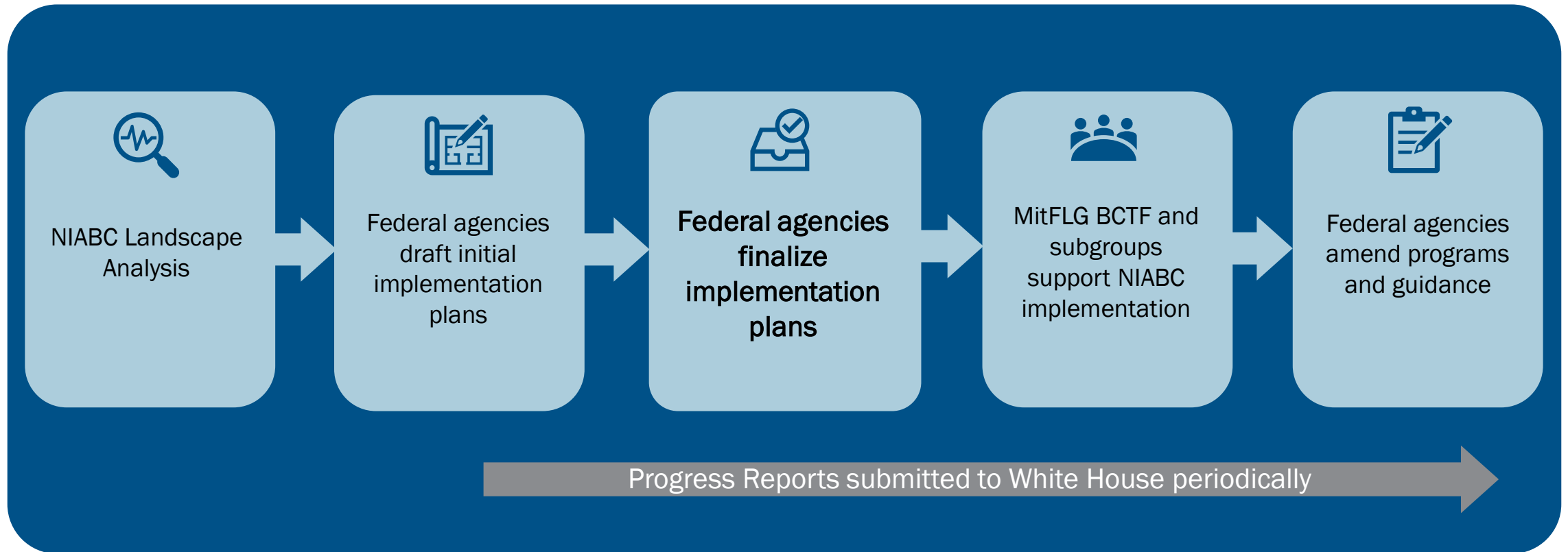
- Informational resources

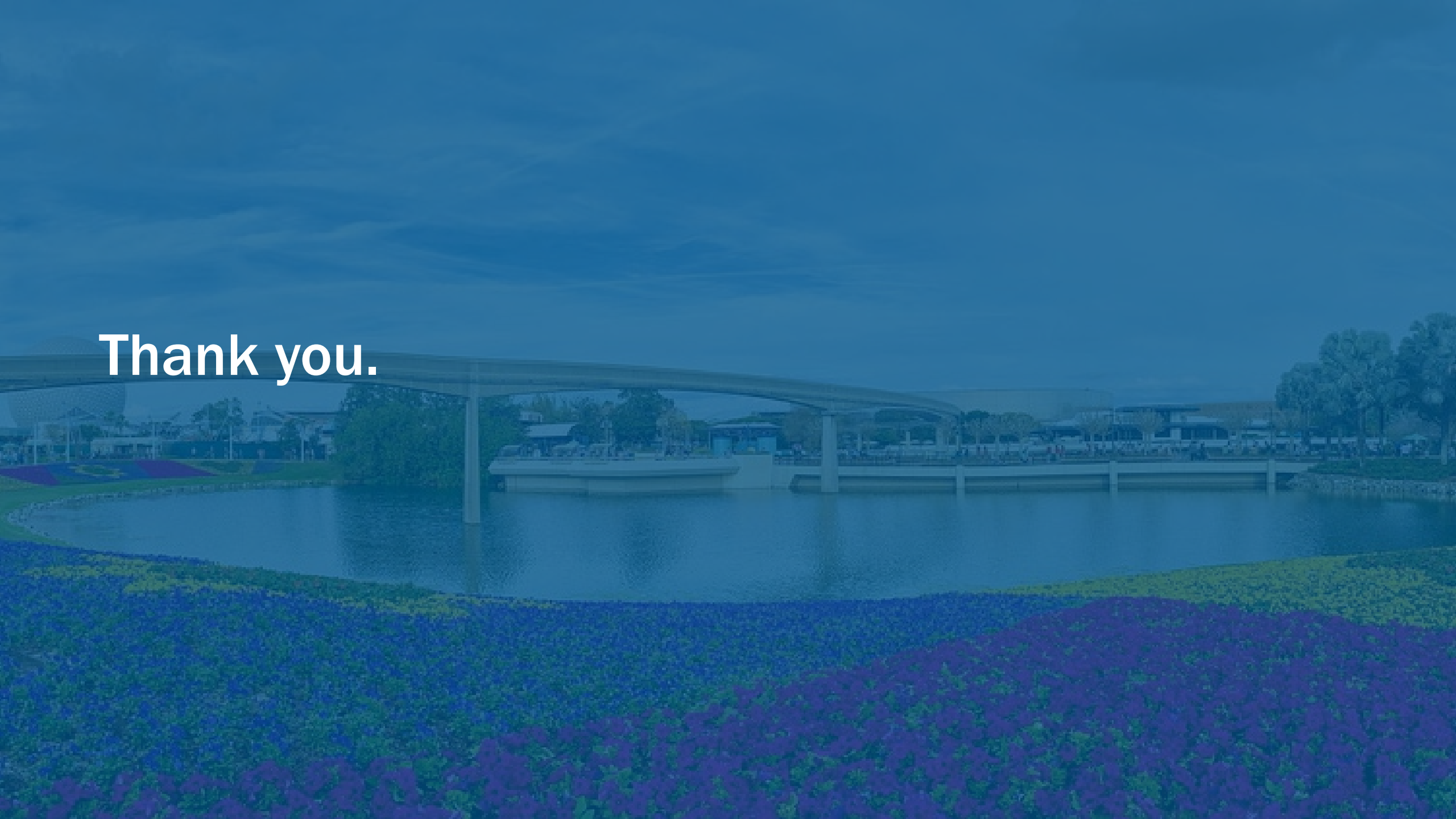| Energy Efficiency | Workforce Development & Job Quality | Building Codes Community of Practice | Financing & Life Cycle Costing |

A focus on equity and environmental justice is cross-cutting through the BCTF and all four subgroups.

National Initiative to Advance Building Codes Milestones

NIABC Landscape Analysis → Federal agencies draft initial implementation plans → **Federal agencies finalize implementation plans** → MitFLG BCTF and subgroups support NIABC implementation → Federal agencies amend programs and guidance

Progress Reports submitted to White House periodically

Thank you.

Adopting the Suite of Building Codes in Colorado

Adam Berry
Senior Program Manager for Building Codes
Colorado Energy Office

Building Codes in Colorado

- Colorado is a home rule state with over 330 authority-having jurisdictions (AHJs) that can adopt and enforce building codes.

- Colorado has two statewide codes - electrical and plumbing.

- All other building codes are adopted and enforced at the local level.

  - Fewer than 20 AHJs have adopted the 2021 I-codes, including the IECC

  - Nearly 80 AHJs have no building codes of any kind

- Nearly all AHJs in Colorado that have adopted building codes have adopted the full suite of I-codes or a subset of I-codes, but very rarely, if ever, adopted only the IECC.

COLORADO Energy Office

Colorado Minimum Energy Code Requirements

- In 2022, the Colorado General Assembly passed House Bill 22-1362, which set a new minimum energy code that AHJs must adopt should they make any updates to any other building code.

- Beginning in July 2023, the minimum energy code will be the 2021 IECC plus pre-wiring requirements for future rooftop solar, electric appliances, and EV charging developed by the Colorado Energy Code Board.

- In July 2026, the minimum energy code will become a more stringent low energy and carbon code.

- Many AHJs will update their suite of I-codes at the same time they update their energy code, or will adopt the suite of I-codes for the first time alongside the energy code.

COLORADO
Energy Office

Adoption of Full Codes Suite

- Most AHJs adopt the full suite of building codes at the same time - however, resources are often only available to support adoption of certain codes.

- The I-codes, developed by the International Code Council, are designed to work and function together.

- Utilities, like Xcel Energy, have been very supportive partners of code adoption in Colorado, but their resources are limited to technical assistance and funding for the energy code.

- Limited technical assistance, funding, and access to resources and training for the non-energy codes often leads AHJs not to adopt or update codes at all, meaning the energy code gets left behind.

- Many subject matter experts in Colorado donate their time to support adoption and training on the remaining I-codes to ensure adoption of the energy code.

COLORADO
Energy Office

Colorado Resources for Adoption of All Codes

- The Colorado Energy Office (CEO) funds a building code helpline that connects building officials, contractors, engineers, designers, homeowner, business owners, and more with subject matter experts to assist with questions on the full suite of I-codes.

- CEO also provides training and technical assistance on energy codes for AHJs and private entities across Colorado, which is flexible to support training and technical assistance on all I-codes.

- In recent years, there has been a lot of focus at the state and federal levels on funding energy code work exclusive of the other I-codes - CEO will have to develop new strategies and identify new funding to continue support of the full I-codes suite.
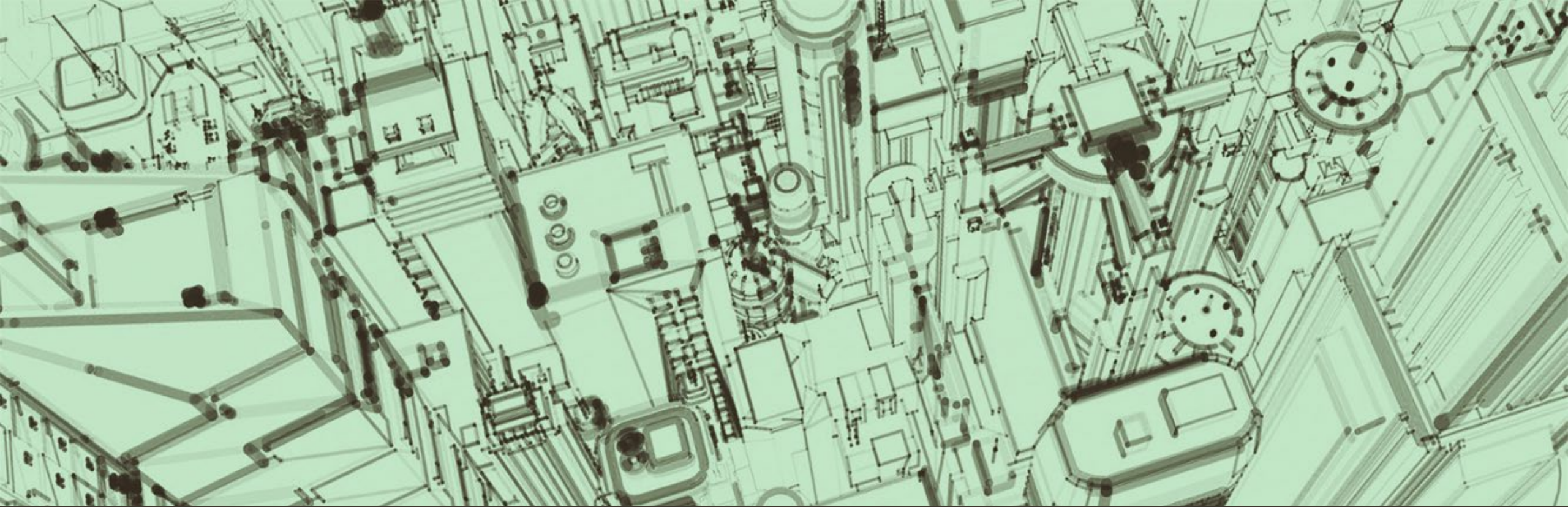

Building Code Helpline
Submit a question on any Building Code!

COLORADO
Energy Office

A Case For All Codes

Code Adoption Assistance for more than just Energy Codes

Consistency between adopted codes

Better chance of staying within the same edition for all codes

Reduction of frustration/anger over energy codes

Resiliency
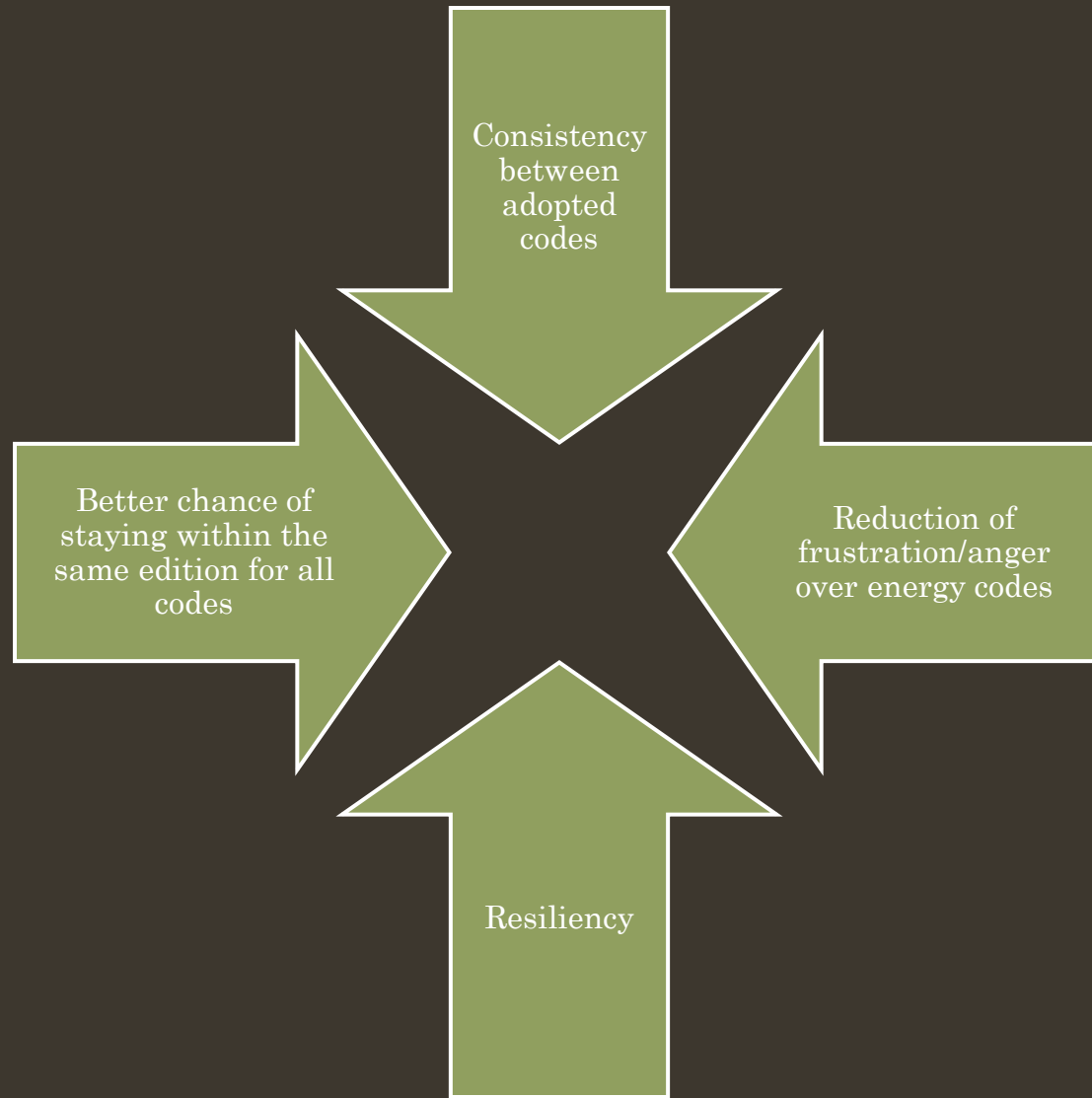
Why all codes?

Most AHJ's adopt the full family of I-Codes and would likely move forward more regularly if they had help with all of them.

How Do We Help With All Codes?

- Funding needed to help with codes
  - Utilities, Energy Offices, FEMA?, who else?

- Meet w/AHJ to determine goals, needs, abilities, staffing, concerns…

- Look at the next edition of the code, if already written, to see which items could be brought back to the current edition as good fixes

- Take existing amendments for all codes, that have been carried forward, and bring them up to date

- Process is longer for the first time but is faster each cycle following

- Create "Standardized Code Amendment Packages" (SCAP)

Step 1 Funding

⬇

Step 2 Meet W/AHJ

⬇

Step 3 Look to the Future

⬇

Step 4 Write the Codes

Strategies and Lessons Learned

Strategies

- Thoroughly go through current amendments to see what has been carried forward and no longer needed

- Decide on things like sprinklers, WUIC, sustainability – where will these amendments live?

- Keep list of standardized amendments that others are making

- When in doubt, create a task group

- Teach more people how to work with all codes!

Lessons Learned

- Not a lot of people who know all codes so it may take more people or more time

- The first time through will take more hours and cost more, plan accordingly

- Changes to one code almost always have an affect on another code

- Training is always beneficial and can always include some Energy Codes

- Some state mandates may affect the process so be aware of deadlines

THANK YOU!!!

By His Grace, In His Honor, For His Glory!

Presented by:

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Writing and teaching codes for the end user