

IECC- Status Update of State and Local Adoptions

National Energy Codes Conference

March 21-24, 2016

Tucson, Arizona

Presentation Objectives

- Present IECC adoption background
- Discuss state and local IECC adoption factors
- Analyze HBA influence on IECC adoptions
- Present the current IECC state and local adoption status
- Discuss current IECC adoption trends

Background on IECC Adoption Environment

- The U.S. does not have a nationally promulgated and mandated energy code or standard
- Model Energy codes/standards are promulgated by Standards Developing Organizations (SDOs) such as ICC and ASHRAE
- Energy codes are adopted at the state and local level. Some federal agencies utilize I-Codes
- Because of the wide variation in state and local adoption processes, a patchwork of various IECC adoptions is present across the U.S.

Background on IECC Adoption Environment

- Spurred by the oil embargo fueled energy crisis in 1973 and the second oil crisis in 1979 (Iranian Revolution), the Federal Government has taken steps to encourage energy conservation; specifically including energy efficiency and conservation related to buildings by encouraging the adoption of more energy efficient building codes.

Background on IECC Adoption Environment

- According to NIBS- “In 1978, Congress passed legislation requiring states to initiate energy efficiency standards for new buildings. Since then, energy codes have undergone significant improvements. The 1992 Energy Policy Act ("EPAct") mandated that all states must review and consider adopting the national model energy standard. The Energy Policy Act of 2005 specified the most current model energy codes at the time of its passage (2004 IECC supplement, ASHRAE 90.1-2004). Requirements for states to implement review and update energy codes are triggered by release of new model codes and standards and a determination by DOE that the new codes and standards save energy”

Background on IECC Adoption Environment

- In 1992 Council of American Building Officials (CABO) published the first Model Energy Code (MEC)
- ICC's International Energy Conservation Code succeeded the MEC in 2000 and has undergone updates every three years since its introduction.
- The DOE has made an energy savings determination for the IECC through the current 2105 edition.

State and Local IECC Adoption Factors

- Federal mandate lacks teeth for adoption
- Energy Conservation in model building codes was a paradigm shift from historic minimum building safety requirements
- Construction and development industry often resisted mandated energy efficiency in updated code adoptions
- If not championed by elected officials, in some instances state and local jurisdictions, including building officials, have resisted adoption of current energy codes due to the most vocal stakeholder pressure.

State and Local IECC Adoption Factors

- Market forces impact IECC adoptions
- The economy and building bubble collapse
- Building bubble 1- 2007-2008
- 2007-09 Recession- Federal intervention
- Regional impacts on building departments
- Effect on local code adoptions and IECC enforcement
- Alternative Compliance Paths encouraged

State and Local IECC Adoption Factors

- 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act- \$3.1B in Energy Programs
- Section 410, linked state energy program funding to tougher energy codes for new construction and major renovations
- The incentive helped to spur IECC adoptions in most instances.
- % of jurisdictions versus volume- net effect

Homebuilder influence on IECC adoptions

- NAHB participation in ICC CDP
- HBA market forces due to recession and housing bubble burst
- HBA strategy of bypassing normal adoption process and go directly to state legislatures- six year adoption cycle
- Market driven codes versus SDO driven codes
- Diluting IECC requirements in IECC adoptions
- Commercial IECC requirements appear to be less at risk to the economy- business view

Current IECC adoption status

- Current adoption statistics reflect cumulative effect of sluggish economy, federal intervention efforts, HBA and other stakeholder resistance.
- State and local IECC adoption comes in many different flavors
- ICC GR IECC adoption chart handout
- Chart legend/notes provide clues to method and current status.
- <http://www.iccsafe.org/international-code-adoptions/>

Current IECC adoption trends

- More debate and challenge during governing body adoption deliberation. Historic adoption processes are being challenged
- Utah- 2005 = 2012 Utah REScheck with gradual increase in efficiency over six years.
- Pennsylvania example- 3 2015 amendments
- Adoption processes delayed- NM
- Current housing market trends
- <http://wolfstreet.com/2015/01/14/the-american-dream-pops-kb-home-wrecked-other-homebuilders-follow/>

Conclusion

State and local adoption of the IECC remains a growing challenge in some states and local jurisdictions. The HBA is taking an increased role with the IECC at the national, state and local levels. Continuing market pressures will influence the outcome of IECC adoptions in some states. Compliance with the 2017 ARRA 2009 90% compliance requirement is looming and the outcome is in question.

QUESTIONS

- **Questions/ Discussion**
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