



NEEP MODEL PROGRESSIVE BUILDING ENERGY CODES POLICY

Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships (NEEP) is a non profit organization promoting the efficient use of energy efficiency in homes, buildings and industry in the Northeast U.S. through regionally coordinated programs and policies.

NEEP's Building Energy Codes Project works to achieve significant energy savings in new construction and renovations through up-to-date building energy codes in Northeast states that meet or exceed national model energy code requirements, and to attain a high level of energy code compliance. NEEP's white paper, *Model Progressive Building Energy Codes Policy for Northeast States*, will serve as the basis for energy code outreach.

Model Progressive Building Energy Codes Policy

WHAT	The Policy gives a set of interconnected recommendations aimed at ensuring the adoption of progressively more efficient building energy codes, improving the rate at which buildings and dwellings comply with the code and measuring the actual building energy performance of buildings and dwellings to see how they compare to predicted energy savings.
WHO/WHY	The Policy provides guidance to code officials, advocates, utilities and other energy codes related stakeholders in creating and/or adopting building energy policies that will lead to large-scale energy and carbon emissions savings in the built environment across the Northeast.

Annual Energy Savings and Carbon Emissions Reductions for New Jersey in 2020¹

Building Type	Energy Savings (trillion BTUs)	Equivalent # of Homes	CO2 Emission Reductions (thousand metric tons)	Equivalent # of Cars
Residential	10	85,000	570	95,000
Commercial	19	160,000	970	160,000

¹ These savings come from adopting and fully implementing energy codes across the region that are 30% more energy efficient than the 2006 International Energy Conservation Code. Once the region reaches the net-zero energy level, the annual savings will be much higher.



Model Codes Policy Components and Recommendations

CODE ADOPTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adopt latest national model energy code every three years.• State amendments to national model energy code should not decrease the stringency of the code.• State should adopt an Informative Appendix for both residential and commercial buildings that is at least 20 percent more energy efficient than the base state code.
CODE COMPLIANCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Incorporate a third party inspection system and/or a system based on the RESNET Home Energy Rating System.• Institute a fee for service structure that sets aside dedicated funding for plan review and inspections of energy code.• Permit applicants should contract directly with special energy code inspectors.• Establish a stable source of funding for training and certification.• Adopt commissioning requirements as part of the building energy code that include all building systems including HVAC, lighting.
BUILDING PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Require the measurement and disclosure of residential dwelling and commercial building energy performance prior to sale of the building.• Require the labeling of all buildings with information on energy performance.• Require improvements in energy performance at the time of sale.• Require the energy performance benchmarking of all commercial buildings and use the EPA Portfolio Manager or equivalent.

Download the Full Paper

Download the full model policy paper at http://neep.org/uploads/policy/NEEP_Building_Energy_Codes_Policy_March_2009.pdf

More Information

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