



Talking Points in Support of Pennsylvania's Adoption of the 2012 IECC

[ORGANIZATION NAME] strongly supports Pennsylvania's efforts to create a better energy future for its citizens by adopting the 2012 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC). This action will maintain the Commonwealth's standing as a national leader in sensible and efficient building practices and the effective use of energy.

By implementing and enforcing the 2012 IECC, Pennsylvania will help ensure that every buyer of a new home gets a reasonably energy efficient home, and that every owner or operator of a new commercial building receives the benefits of a modern, energy efficient building. Pennsylvania and its citizens stand to benefit from the adoption of the 2012 IECC in many ways:

- The 2012 IECC is the final product of a well-developed, long-standing model code development process that involves the nation's leading experts in energy efficiency, building design and product performance professionals, state and local governmental officials, product manufacturers, architects and builders, including representatives from PA.
- The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) recognizes that the 2012 IECC represents a 30% improvement in energy efficiency as compared to the 2006 IECC, and "represents the largest, one-step efficiency increase in the history of the national model energy code."¹
- DOE has made its final determination that ASHRAE Standard 90.1 2010 saves energy and meets the requirements of federal law. The standard is referenced by IECC 2012. Federal law calls for PA (and all US states) to "update their building codes to meet or exceed the energy efficiency of the new standard within two years. Certification statements by the states [and PA] are due October 18, 2013." In fact, Maryland was recently the first state in the nation to adopt the 2012 IECC, effective January 1, 2012.²
- By adopting the 2012 IECC, Pennsylvania will stay on track of energy efficiency goals, and will provide benefits to its building and home owners and individual tenants for many years. New construction is the most cost-effective time to install better insulation, quality windows and doors, and efficient heating and cooling equipment that is properly sized. Construction costs should be reduced through economies of scale, as suppliers and retailers reduce inventories and streamline production to meet these new energy targets.
- The adoption of the 2012 IECC will facilitate compliance and enforcement of the code, as many of the provisions are simpler and easier to apply than previous versions. Builders and code officials can take advantage of free trainings, COMcheck and REScheck compliance software, and other programs through the DOE.

¹ See "2012 IECC Final Action Hearings Deliver DOE's 30% Energy Savings Goals," at

http://www.energycodes.gov/status/2012_Final.stm

² See <http://bcap-ocean.org/news/2011/november/29/maryland-becomes-first-state-adopt-2012-iecc-effective-jan-1>



Conclusion

[ORGANIZATION NAME] strongly urges the PA Review and Advisory Committee (RAC) to oppose any amendments/proposals to the 2012 IECC that make the 2012 code less stringent. Such amendments only serve to reduce the energy savings achieved by the model code and are inconsistent with PA energy policy goals.

Comprehensive, unified code adoptions reduce the expenses associated with constructing buildings and homes, and assure that the adopted health, safety and welfare requirements work in concert to bring safe, healthy and efficient buildings and building renovations to the Commonwealth now and into the future.

The 2012 ICC compendium of building and energy codes proposed for adoption by RAC is an important step in PA's leadership in providing the best regulatory protection for their residents and businesses. [ORGANIZATION NAME] commends the RAC for bringing this code change forward, and supports the adoption of the 2012 IECC in its entirety.