



# Codes and Standards

In the United States, buildings create approximately 30 percent of annual global greenhouse gas emissions. In cities like Boston, New York City, and Washington, D.C., that number rises to over 70 percent. Advanced building energy codes and appliance standards are important tools to address not only reduction in emissions and cost savings attributed to energy efficiency, but also in improving occupant health, creating jobs, and providing resiliency.

Building energy codes and appliance standards ensure that buildings and homes meet and exceed minimum energy efficiency performance, are low-carbon emitters, and lock in priorities like electrification from the onset of the building's lifecycle. Intentionally written codes and standards, with appropriate metrics, can ensure that building performance and resiliency is equitably implemented throughout the building sector. Adopting updated codes and standards is essential to ensure that our communities are comprised of healthy and resilient homes that prevent costly and disruptive retrofits in the future.

NEEP works to achieve regional adoption of net-zero, all-electric energy base codes by 2030 and building performance standards enacted by 2035. In 2023, NEEP will support states and communities to advance the adoption, implementation, and compliance of advanced codes, and appliance and building standards that meet climate and affordability goals. NEEP brings together key stakeholders, resources, and research to build knowledge and understanding, to design and implement compliance studies, to develop workforce training, and to highlight innovative approaches to code design and enforcement.

## NEEP's 2023 Outcomes:

- Five states (Delaware, District of Columbia, Maine, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont) and two municipalities (New Castle County, DE; Montgomery County, MD) adopt beyond-base code measures.
- Five states (Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Pennsylvania, West Virginia) improve code compliance through workforce development, specifically code official training, retention, and diversification.
- Four states (Connecticut, Maryland, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Vermont) adopt code and appliance standards attribution initiatives.
- Three states (Connecticut, Delaware, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Vermont) adopt appliance standards, four (District of Columbia, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island) implement adopted standards, and two (Connecticut, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York) adopt air regulations NOx for appliance standards.
- Three states (Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Rhode Island) implement Remote Virtual Inspection.

## NEEP's 2023 Activities:

NEEP works with partners to determine high priority work throughout the year. In 2023, this includes:

**Stakeholder Engagement and Collaboration:** *NEEP brings together key stakeholders, resources, and data to build knowledge and understanding to advance the adoption and implementation of updated building energy codes, zero energy codes, and appliance standards policies and programs.*

- Working Groups: NEEP convenes state code collaboratives in Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and New Jersey and facilitates regional working groups for both codes and appliance standards.
- MAZE: NEEP facilitates the Massachusetts Achieving Zero Energy (MAZE) building energy codes stakeholder group and technical subcommittee.
- Collaboration: NEEP monitors and participates in national, regional, and other groups, including Responsible Energy Codes Alliance (RECA), National Association of State Energy officials (NASEO), national and state decarbonization groups, International Codes Council (ICC) committees and sub-committees to update the IECC (2024), and Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code (MUBEC) Energy TAG.

**Tracking, Analysis, Tools, and Reports:** *NEEP develops tools and resources on the topics of building energy codes and standards, state appliance standards, off-site construction, and remote virtual inspections in order to facilitate peer exchange and to inspire collaborative learning.*

- Web-based Resources: NEEP develops and maintains several website resources, including an [online state code adoptions tracker](#) and the State Appliance Standards [Database](#) (SASD)
- White Papers: NEEP researches and reports on four topics relevant to codes and standards including prefabricated/off-site construction, remote virtual inspections, codes for a carbon constrained era, and the nexus between energy codes and BPS.
- Toolkits: NEEP develops and maintains several online toolkits, including the SASD implementation and enforcement [toolkit](#), code [compliance](#) and [adoption](#) toolkits, and codes and existing buildings toolkit.
- Blog Series: NEEP produces The Code Word newsletter and other pieces examining the adoption, implementation, and compliance of advanced codes, and appliance and building standards.
- Model Building Energy Codes: NEEP develops and maintains [NEEP's Energy Zero Code Commercial Code](#) and Energy Zero Residential Code.

**Technical Assistance:** *NEEP provides customized technical assistance on topics including model energy codes, stretch codes, zero energy codes, zoning regulations, and appliance standards policies and programs.*

- Technical Assistance: NEEP provides presentations, briefings, research, and reports on updating from one model code to the next; developing and implementing state or jurisdiction originated amendments; creating state-specific stretch codes, zero codes, electric codes; implementing stretch codes, zero energy codes, electric codes; advising on policies that address existing buildings; undertaking field studies/compliance; and workforce development.
- Public Comments: NEEP responds to requests to provide public comments that assist states/jurisdictions with understanding proposed public amendments, proposing public comments or amendments, and responding to public comment on proposed code changes.

**Thought Leadership:** *NEEP influences the narrative around building energy codes and appliance standards by positioning NEEP and its partners as consistent, reliable expert sources of information and resources.*

- Webinar Series: NEEP hosts a webinar series that will feature codes and standards, including the 2024 IEC and two Department of Energy National Energy Codes Conference (NECC) summer webinars.
- Events: NEEP will identify opportunities to promote innovative codes and standards and champion solutions at events including NEEP-run and industry-hosted summits, workshops, and other convenings.