



# Connecticut:

## Prioritizing Building Energy Code Activity in 2012

Connecticut's buildings account for **58.3%** of total statewide energy consumption.<sup>1</sup>

**Current Code:** 2009 IECC – Residential  
2009 IECC / ASHRAE 90.1-2007 – Commercial

**Code Compliance Rate:** *Undetermined*

A comprehensive state-level strategy to advance energy efficiency must address minimum standards of building energy performance. Energy codes are the easiest and most cost-effective policy tool for improving the building sector's energy efficiency. In order to maximize CT's energy efficiency goals in the building sector, the following five building energy code priorities are recommended, in order of importance:

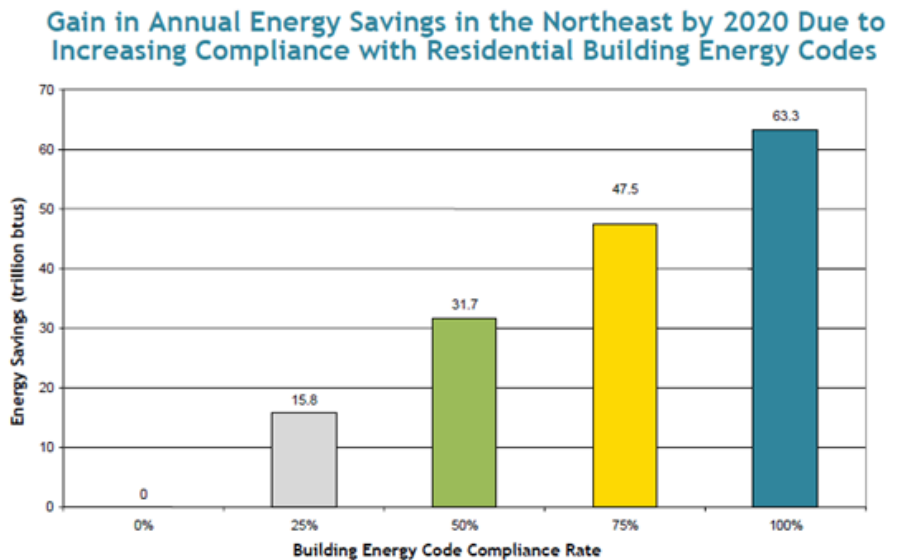
<b>Priority #1</b>	Determine CT's energy code compliance rate.
<b>Priority #2</b>	Achieve FULL compliance with the 2009 model energy code by December 2017.
<b>Priority #3</b>	Develop and publish CT's Strategic Compliance Plan.
<b>Priority #4</b>	Develop a funding mechanism for ongoing code work, support and implementation.
<b>Priority #5</b>	Adopt the 2012 International Energy Conservation Code (2012 IECC) by July 1, 2013.

### Priority #1 - Determine CT's energy code compliance rate:

Determining the state's actual energy code compliance rate should be CT's top priority in 2012, since the rate is an unknown value, and will be needed to inform the strategies that will improve CT's compliance rate. Once the baseline code compliance rate is established, the state is equipped to make more informed policy decisions regarding improving energy efficiency in CT's building stock.

### Priority #2 - Achieve FULL compliance with the 2009 model energy code by December 2017:

Based on the determination of the existing compliance rate, CT should prioritize achieving full compliance with the 2009 IECC (or at a minimum meet the [DOE's 90 percent compliance rate mandate](#)<sup>2</sup>) by December 2017. Lack of compliance with the energy code undermines the potential energy savings of a code. To understand the importance of compliance, the following chart from [NEEP's Model Progressive Building Energy Code Policy](#)<sup>3</sup> paper shows how improving building energy code compliance levels markedly increases energy savings:



<sup>1</sup> [http://www.eia.gov/state/seds/hf.jsp?incfile=sep\\_sum/plain\\_html/rank\\_use.html](http://www.eia.gov/state/seds/hf.jsp?incfile=sep_sum/plain_html/rank_use.html)

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.energycodes.gov/events/energycodes/presentations/ECodes09/monday/compliance.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> [http://neep.org/uploads/SOAPResources/id187/neep\\_building\\_energy\\_codes\\_policy\\_march%202009.pdf](http://neep.org/uploads/SOAPResources/id187/neep_building_energy_codes_policy_march%202009.pdf)

### Priority #3 - Develop and publish CT's Strategic Compliance Plan:

CT's third priority should be the development of a Strategic Compliance Plan that will serve as a roadmap for energy code implementation efforts over the next several years. The plan will recommend tasks within various focus areas that state agencies, local jurisdictions, and other stakeholders can take to achieve full compliance with the model energy code.

It is recommended that the following focus areas be included within CT's Strategic Compliance Plan:

- **Training & Education** - High levels of code compliance require intensive education and training of building professionals from students to designers and builders, as well as code officials, on both the state and local level.
- **Building Energy Rating & Disclosure** - Act as a powerful complement to enhancing building energy codes and compliance and are effective in getting markets to value energy efficiency.
- **Third Party Certification** - Cost-effective means of enhancing consistent statewide code compliance.

### Priority #4 - Develop a funding mechanism for ongoing code work support and implementation:

CT's fourth priority should focus on developing a funding mechanism to support ongoing code work and implementation of the state's Strategic Compliance Plan. The funding mechanism should be supported by the state and tied to the statewide permitting system. In CT, a surcharge of \$0.16 per \$1,000 value of permit work raises over \$1 million per year for education programs. It has supported training staff at the state level, outside instructors, training materials and aids, and venues where training is conducted.

### Priority #5 - Adopt the 2012 IECC by July 1, 2013:

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." Adopting the 2012 IECC demonstrates CT's commitment to a better energy future for its citizens and will maintain the state's standing as a national leader in sensible and efficient building practices and the effective use of energy. Furthermore, the adoption of the 2012 IECC will facilitate compliance and enforcement of the code in CT, as many of the provisions are simpler and easier to apply than previous versions.

**Note:** *In particular, Connecticut may wish to pay special attention to the role that the utilities (as efficiency program administrators) may play in both code compliance and adoption efforts. As a new aggressive energy efficiency scenario is being contemplated as part of the state's Integrated Resource Plan (IRP), and as previous regulatory directives have called on the utilities to play a more active role with regard to codes, any such strategy being planned should contemplate what kind of role utilities could most effectively play in compliance and adoption.*

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Connecticut's Energy Efficiency Programs are funded by a Charge on Customer energy bills. The Programs are designed to help customers manage their energy usage and cost.

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