

AGENDA



Thursday, October 18, 2007

Public Hearings and Possible Actions
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Item No. 88

Subject: Conduct a public hearing and consider an amendment repealing and replacing Article 12 of Chapter 25-12 of the City Code (Energy Code) to adopt the 2006 edition of the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) and local amendments.

Fiscal Note: There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

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Boards and Commission Action: Recommended by the Mechanical, Plumbing and Solar Board; and the Building and Fire Code Board of Appeals.

Prior Council Action: Adoption of the 2000 IECC with local amendments on November 29, 2001.

This item proposes repealing Article 12 of Chapter 25-12 of the City Code (Energy Code) and adoption of the 2006 edition of the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC), and local amendments. Adoption of this energy code and local amendments represents the first step toward fulfilling the Austin Climate Protection Plan's mandate that all new single family homes be zero energy capable by 2015. The amendments to the code will increase energy efficiency of the typical new home built in Austin by 11% over existing code. This code is the result of the efforts of the Zero Energy Capable Homes Task Force which was made up of construction industry professionals, energy advocates and City staff.

Substantive changes include:

1. Building:
 - a.) Testing of the Building Thermal Envelope for Infiltration – Batch testing of 15%
 - b.) Lighting - A minimum of 25% of indoor lamps must be Energy Star-compliant high efficacy lamps.
 - c.) Reflective Roofing - The requirement for the installation of a radiant barrier (Koolply/TechShield type incorporated into the decking material)
2. Plumbing:
 - a.) Requires Gas Water Heating when gas service is located within the adjacent right-of-way
3. Single family projects:
 - a.) Documentation of Heating and Cooling Equipment Sizing - Manual J HVAC sizing
 - b.) Testing of Duct Systems for Leakage - Airflow testing by performing a blower door test
 - c.) Air Balancing of Ventilation System - Volumetric airflow in cubic feet per minute (CFM) shall meet the design/application requirements
 - d.) Filtration for Ventilation Systems - Filters installed in ventilation systems shall have a Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value (MERV) rating of 6 or greater.