



Recommendation for Action

File #: 21-2035, **Agenda Item #:** 55.

6/3/2021

Posting Language

Conduct a public hearing and consider an ordinance repealing and replacing Article 12 of City Code Chapter 25-12 (Technical Codes) to adopt the 2021 International Energy Conservation Code and local amendments; and creating offenses.

Lead Department

Development Services Department

Fiscal Note

This item has no fiscal impact.

Prior Council Action:

June 23, 2016 - Council adopted the 2015 International Energy Conservation Code and local amendments on Council Member Pool's motion, Mayor Pro Tem Tovo's second on a 9-0 vote. Council Members Troxclair and Zimmerman abstained.

For More Information:

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Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:

May 18, 2021 - Adoption of the 2021 International Energy Conservation Code and local amendments to be considered by the Resource Management Commission (RMC).

Additional Backup Information:

The International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) provides reduced energy use in both residential and commercial buildings. The 2021 IECC represents a significant change in energy efficiency from the 2015 version. The proposed ordinance reduces local amendments, clarifies existing amendments, and provides more flexibility to the design community. The Development Services Department, in collaboration with Austin Energy Green Building, conducted stakeholder engagement through the Public Input platform.

For the 2021 IECC, energy efficiency increases in the commercial sector look to be in the range of 10% as a weighted average across all building types over existing code. For single family construction, savings of 3-5% are anticipated across all building types. Specific changes to the current code include:

- Requiring new buildings over 25,000 square feet to monitor, meter and report most electric end use categories, to include the total HVAC system, interior and exterior lighting and plug loads.
- Requiring new Buildings over 100,000 square feet to install HVAC systems with fault detection, sampling the system every 15 minutes and able to transmit recommendations regarding system performance remotely.
- Addition of new code (R408) for residential to require an additional energy efficiency package. This code is very similar to what has been required in the commercial provisions for a couple of code cycles.

Examples of some allowed options include 5% better envelope performance as demonstrated by modeling, higher efficient mechanical or water heating equipment, and reduced air leakage. All allowed options are estimated to provide 5% energy savings.

- Addition of new code to require additional controls on permanent interior and exterior light fixtures. Controls can include dimmers or sensors and primarily targets the main living areas for residential.
- Increase in ceiling insulation R-value from R-38 to R-49 for residential.

Highlights of the local amendments include:

- Carrying over the solar ready amendment as is from the 2015 IECC.
- Dropping the requirement carried over through the 2015 IECC that natural gas be used for water heating in any new residential construction with natural gas service adjacent to that property.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Safety, Health and the Environment, Government that Works for All