

BUILDING PRO NEWS

New Energy Codes to Take Effect in 2010

Massachusetts Energy Code Leads the Nation

Building codes are always evolving, so it can be no surprise to the building trades that a new round of code upgrades is right around the corner, including a statewide code upgrade and an optional code Appendix that municipalities can adopt.

The Green Communities Act of 2008 requires Massachusetts to adopt each new International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) edition within one year of its publication and to provide code training to building officials. Through an amendment process, the Massachusetts Building Code, 7th Edition, will be updated on January 1, 2010 to ensure it agrees with the 2009 IECC requirements. The changes will affect both residential and commercial construction.



In addition, the Green Communities Act allows municipalities the option of setting above-code energy efficiency requirements for both commercial and residential projects. This can be accomplished through the adoption of an *optional* Appendix to the Massachusetts Building Code, referred to as the Stretch en-

ergy code. The Stretch code was developed collaboratively by the Board of Building Regulations and Standards (BBRS) and Department of Energy Resources (DOER), with input from the building trades and other stakeholders, and was approved by the BBRS in May 2009.

BBRS and DOER to Provide Training for Building Professionals

Two code enhancements for 2010 — the mandatory adoption of the latest version of the IECC (IECC-2009) and the optional Stretch code — will introduce not only incremental changes over the 7th Edition, but also several significant departures from the current (and previous) editions of the code. Most notably, for residential new construction, envelope and duct leakage testing, and high-efficiency lighting will be required.

To orient building professionals to the changes, BBRS and DOER will provide two separate

four to five hour technical training classes—one covering residential requirements and the other focused on commercial code changes. The format of each session is being designed to meet the needs of building code officials (who may attend for free) as well as other building professionals such as contractors, remodelers, and architects, for whom there will be a modest course fee.

Beyond clarifying the technical enhancements to the code and the requirements of

the Stretch code, presenters will review case studies to illustrate how typical projects can comply with either the new base code upgrades or Stretch code, and estimate cost impact of code changes to projects.

The training sessions are being developed by the Center for Ecological Technology (CET), Conservation Services Group (CSG), and Energy & Resource Solutions (ERS), and will be delivered at various locations around the state starting in mid-January.

Massachusetts Energy Codes Training

Learn what's new in the Energy Code and the optional Stretch Code

Classes offered January through August across Massachusetts in convenient locations

For class dates and locations and to register:

(Copy and paste this web address into your browser)

<https://www.123signup.com/calendar?Org=cetonline>

Questions? Contact:

800-369-3333 ext. 301

training@cetonline.org

CEUs available

Continuing education credits will be available from the following organizations:

- American Institute of Architects (AIA)
- Board of Building Regulations and Standards (BBRS)
- National Association of Home Builders (NAHB)
- Building Performance Institute (BPI)
- American Society of Home Inspectors (ASHI)

Sponsored by the Massachusetts Board of Building Regulations and Standards and the Department of Energy Resources.
Presented by the Center for Ecological Technology, Conservation Services Group, and Energy & Resource Solutions

