ICC INTERNATIONAL CODE COUNCIL®

2027 IECC Commercial & Residential Scope & Intent

Draft for Public Comment

July 15, 2024

www.iccsafe.org

2027 IECC (Commercial & Residential) Scope & Intent Draft

For Public Comment

July 12, 2024, the International Code Council Board of Directors approved the following scope and intent (with commentary) for public comment. The following is the draft scope and intent with commentary that is proposed by the board.

COMMERCIAL

C101.2 Scope.

This code applies to the design and construction of new and existing buildings, including additions, alterations, repairs and changes of occupancy and use, not covered by the IECC Residential.

C101.3 Intent.

The purpose of the International Energy Conservation Code-Commercial is to provide market-driven, enforceable requirements that deliver a reasonable level of energy conservation that is safe, technologically feasible, and life cycle cost effective, considering economic feasibility, including potential costs and savings for consumers and building owners, and return on investment. Additionally, the code includes ASHRAE 90.1 as a compliance method. Requirements contained in the code will include prescriptive and performance-based pathways. The code will provide for the safe and efficient use of energy sources and is not intended to eliminate any fuel type.

The code may include non-mandatory provisions incorporating additional energy efficiency and greenhouse gas reduction resources and provisions that lead to achievement of zero energy buildings. Such provisions shall either be (i) in optional appendices or (ii) in the base code provided as options where compliance with the code is still possible without complying with those provisions. This code's intent statement does not require the exclusion of provisions contained in prior editions of this code.

Commentary and Direction from the Board of Directors

The ICC Board of Directors provides the following additional commentary to be written in the IECC Commentary and provided to the IECC-C Development Committee in advance of the Commentary being published:

- The code shall provide a minimum base energy code with prescriptive and performance-based pathways that take into consideration feasibility of technology and costs impacts to building owners and occupants. The code also provides ASHRAE 90.1 as a compliance method.

- Provisions of the code shall not promote or penalize specific types of equipment or fuel sources.
- The code will aim to simplify code requirements to facilitate the code's use and compliance rate. The code is updated on a three-year cycle with each subsequent edition providing increased energy savings over the prior edition.
- This code is intended to provide flexibility to permit the use of innovative approaches and techniques to achieve this intent. This code is not intended to abridge safety, health or environmental requirements contained in other applicable codes or ordinances.
- Provisions that provide for greenhouse gas reductions or resilience benefits (e.g., electric vehicles, readiness, demand response, and onsite or off-site energy storage or renewable energy) as well as provisions to achieve zero energy buildings shall only be included either in an optional appendix/appendices or as part of a compliance path (e.g., credits system, simulated performance) where compliance is still possible without using or promoting such measures (e.g., through strictly energy efficiency measures)

  Exception: Current provisions in the 2024 IECC regarding mandatory requirements for renewable energy (section C405.15) may remain in the body of the code as mandatory and may be amended so long as such amendments do not exceed existing requirements.

RESIDENTIAL

R101.2 Scope.

This code applies to the design and construction of new and existing detached one- and two-family dwellings and multiple single-family dwellings (townhouses) and Group R-2, R-3 and R-4 buildings three stories or less in height above grade plane, including additions, alterations, repairs and changes of occupancy and use.

R101.3 Intent.

The purpose of the International Energy Conservation Code-Residential is to provide market-driven, enforceable requirements that deliver a reasonable level of energy conservation that is safe, technologically feasible, and life cycle cost effective, considering economic feasibility, including potential costs and savings for consumers and building owners, and return on investment. Requirements contained in the code will include prescriptive and performance-based pathways. The IECC residential provisions shall include an update to Chapter 11 of the International Residential Code. The code will provide for the safe and efficient use of energy sources and is not intended to eliminate any fuel type.

The code may include non-mandatory provisions incorporating additional energy efficiency and greenhouse gas reduction resources and provisions that lead to achievement of zero energy buildings. Such provisions shall either be (i) in optional appendices or (ii) in the base code provided as options where compliance with the code is still possible without complying with those provisions. This code's intent statement does not require the exclusion of provisions contained in prior editions of this code.

Commentary and Direction from the Board of Directors

The ICC Board of Directors provides the following additional commentary to be written in the IECC Commentary and provided to the IECC-R Development Committee in advance of the Commentary being published:

- The code shall provide a minimum base energy code with prescriptive and performance-based pathways that take into consideration feasibility of technology and costs impacts to building owners and occupants.
- Provisions of the code shall not promote or penalize specific types of equipment or fuel sources.
- The code will aim to simplify code requirements to facilitate the code's use and compliance rate. The code is updated on a three-year cycle with each subsequent edition providing increased energy savings over the prior edition.
- This code is intended to provide flexibility to permit the use of innovative approaches and techniques to achieve this intent. This code is not intended to abridge safety, health or environmental requirements contained in other applicable codes or ordinances.
- Provisions that provide for greenhouse gas reductions or resilience benefits (e.g., electric vehicles, readiness, demand response, and onsite or off-site energy storage or renewable energy) as well as provisions to achieve zero energy buildings shall only be included either in an optional appendix/appendix or as part of a compliance path (e.g., credits system, simulated performance) where compliance is still possible without using or promoting such measures (e.g., through strictly energy efficiency measures)