

“Illinois Energy Conservation Code” **for** **Commercial and Residential Buildings**

[Public Act 096-0778](#) was signed into law on August 28, 2009 amending the Energy Efficient Commercial Building Act by including residential buildings and amending the name of the act to the Energy Efficient Building Act. The new requirements for residential buildings became effective on January 29, 2010.

HISTORY OF THE ILLINOIS ENERGY CONSERVATION CODE [Public Act 093-0936](#) (Illinois Energy Conservation Code for Commercial Buildings) was signed into law in August, 2004. The Illinois Energy Conservation Code for Commercial Buildings became effective April 8, 2006. On October 9, 2007 the Law was [revised](#) to mandate the latest published edition, excluding supplements, of the International Energy Conservation Code. As of August 18, 2009 the Illinois Energy Conservation Code for Commercial Buildings is the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code. On August 28, 2009, Public Act 096-0778 requiring an energy code for residential buildings was signed into law. It became effective on January 29th, 2010, officially establishing the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code as the energy code for residential buildings in Illinois.

WHAT THE LAW REQUIRES

The Law requires all new commercial and residential construction for which a building permit application is received by a municipality or county to follow a comprehensive statewide energy conservation code. Renovations, alterations, additions, and repairs to most existing commercial and residential buildings must follow the Illinois Energy Conservation Code. The Law requires design and construction professionals to follow the latest published edition of the International Energy Conservation Code which is currently the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code and the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air-conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) Standard 90.1, 2007 “Energy Standard for Buildings except Low-Rise Residential Buildings.” Under the law, the Capital Development Board has the power to modify the Illinois Energy Conservation Code.

Local governments are free to adopt stricter energy conservation Laws for commercial buildings. However, for residential buildings, local governments may not adopt or regulate energy conservation standards either less or more stringent than the Illinois Energy Conservation Code. Exceptions which would allow local governments to regulate energy efficient standards in a more stringent manner are municipalities or counties which meet one of the following three provisions:

- A unit of local government that on or before May 15, 2009 adopted or incorporated by reference energy efficient building standards for residential

- building that are equivalent to or more stringent than the 2006 International Energy Conservation Code
- A unit of local government that on or before May 15, 2009 provided to the Capital Development Board identification of an energy efficient building code or amendment that is equivalent to or more stringent than the 2006 International Energy Conservation Code
 - A municipality with a population of 1,000,000 or more

THE GOALS OF THE LAW

The Law is designed to help protect the environment and reduce energy consumption. By following an energy conservation code, property owners can reduce air pollution, moderate energy demand and stabilize energy costs and electric, oil, and gas supplies.

The efficient gains of the 2009 code set a new baseline for IECC-compliant homes and buildings, and while, there will be regional variability and uncertainty in the technology penetration, preliminary estimates from U.S. DOE suggest the 2009 IECC will be at least 18 percent and possibly even 22 percent more energy efficient than the 2006 IECC.

WHAT THE LAW DOESN'T COVER

The Law does not apply to officially designated historic buildings, buildings exempt from a local building code, buildings that do not use energy for comfort conditioning and buildings wired for less than 100 amps of power or buildings that do not have electric comfort heating. "[Illinois' Energy Efficient Building Act](#)" can be found in Chapter 20 of the Illinois Compiled Statutes, Act 3125."

The proposed Administrative Rules for the residential code will be published in an upcoming edition of the Illinois Register. A link will be added to this page once it becomes available.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

Training opportunities are being funded by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity through the International Code Council. Please visit <http://www.iccsafe.org/IL-IECC> for dates, times and registration information.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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