

# Climate Adaptations and Futures Webinar Series: New Buildings: Energy Efficiency & Building Codes

Moderator:

- Kim Burke, Senior Program Manager, Colorado Energy Office

Panelists:

- Jess Hoover, Climate Action Director, High Country Conservation Center
- Todd Carr, Building Official Routt County
- Christin Whitco, Energy Code Coordinator City of Boulder

## Colorado Energy Office: Energy Code Adoption Toolkit

The Colorado Energy Office created the [Energy Code Adoption Toolkit](#) to assist Colorado jurisdictions through the process of energy code adoption. The toolkit provides information on the benefits of adopting a more current energy code—including energy costs savings, greater resiliency, contribution to local climate plans, consistency for builders and designers, and lower insurance rates for jurisdictions—and gives tips on how to navigate the typical adoption process.

### Energy Code Adoption Toolkit

Climate & Energy	▼
GHG Pollution Reduction Roadmap	
Energy Policy	▼
Building Energy Codes	▼
<b>Energy Code Adoption Toolkit</b>	
Building Benchmarking	
Colorado General Assembly	
Regulatory Information	
Colorado Energy Assurance Plan	
Electricity	>
Renewable Energy	>
Traditional Energy	>
Propane in Colorado	
Local Government Resource Guide	

The Colorado Energy Office (CEO) created this Energy Code Adoption Toolkit to assist Colorado jurisdictions through the process of energy code adoption. The toolkit provides information on the benefits of adopting a more current energy code and gives tips on how to navigate the typical adoption process. It also includes several resources that:

- Detail the costs of updating an energy code
- Describe changes made in the latest version of the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC)
- Provide example language for the adoption of stretch codes that go beyond the IECC
- Help jurisdictions verify code compliance

The resources in this Energy Code Adoption Toolkit are designed to put all of the necessary code adoption information in one place, while walking your jurisdiction through the process.

- ▼ Benefits of Current Energy Codes
- ▼ Navigating the Code Adoption Process
- ▼ Summary of IECC Code Changes
- ▼ Cost Impacts of Updating Energy Codes
- ▼ Advanced Building Codes / Stretch Codes

The tool includes several resources that:

This webinar (and others) are available at:  
<https://www.coresiliency.com/webinars>



- Detail the **costs of updating** an energy code,
- Describe **changes** made in the latest version of the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC),
- Outline an **implementation plan** to adopt the energy code in phases in order to achieve improved building compliance and understanding,
- Provide **example language** for the adoption of advanced amendments that go beyond the IECC, and
- Help jurisdictions **verify code compliance**.

The resources in the Energy Code Adoption Toolkit are designed to put all of the necessary code adoption information in one place, while walking your jurisdiction through the process.

The toolkit also includes links to previously recorded **training webinars**.

#### IECC 2021 General Training

- [Electric Vehicles and Electrification](#) (10/28/2020)
- [Should We Adopt the 2021?](#) (10/7/2020)

#### IECC 2021 Residential Trainings

- [Residential Inspections](#) (4/7/2021)
- [Residential Ventilation](#) (3/17/2021) + [slides](#)
- [Residential Testing](#) (3/10/2021)
- [Significant Residential Changes - Part 1](#) (2/17/2021) + [slides](#)
- [Deep Dive into Compliance Pathways - Part 2](#) (2/24/2021) + [slides](#)
- [Infiltration vs. Ventilation vs. Manual J](#) (1/13/2021)

#### IECC 2021 Commercial Trainings

- [Advanced Amendments](#) (2/10/2021)
- [Commercial Lighting / Daylighting](#) (2/3/2021)
- [Commercial Architectural](#) (1/27/2021)
- [Commercial Mechanical and Plumbing](#) (1/20/2021)

#### General Topics *(applicable to IECC 2015 or later versions)*

- [Reviewing Residential Reports](#) (3/31/2021)
- [Reviewing Commercial Reports](#) (3/24/2021)
- [Manual D](#) (12/16/2020) + [slides](#)
- [Manual S](#) (12/9/2020) + [slides](#)
- [Manual J](#) (12/2/2020) + [slides](#)
- [Building Science 101](#) (for Mechanical Contractors, 11/18/2020)
- [How Should Architects Implement and Specify New Regulations?](#) (11/4/2020)
- [Administration of the Energy Efficiency Provisions of the Codes](#) (10/14/2020)
- [COMcheck Overview](#) (5/1/2020)
- [REScheck Overview](#) (4/24/2020)

#### Zero Energy Ready Home (ZERH) Training Series

*The Colorado Energy Office sponsored a Department of Energy ZERH Program Webinar*

1. [ZERH Intro to Building Science](#) + [slides](#)
2. [ZERH Program Overview](#) + [slides](#)
3. [ENERGY STAR, the Foundation of the ZERH Program](#) + [slides](#)
4. [Indoor airPLUS and the ZERH Program](#) + [slides](#)
5. [Additional ZERH Program Requirements](#) + [slides](#)
6. [Cold Climate Building Science and Assemblies](#) + [slides](#)

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## Key Takeaways from Panelists

### High Country Conservation Center -

- All communities in Summit County are on the same code adoption cycle.
- New code is adopted every 6 years.
- See a huge benefit for contractors to be working with the same code in the county.
- There is some conversation about adopting code more frequently.
- Last year adopted a new sustainability building code.
- Equity is a big topic of conversation with adopting building codes. There is a lot of pushback because of the perception of cost increase.

### Routt County -

- The county adopts 5 different codes, but they are very consistent across jurisdictions.
- They recently moved away from the 6-year cycle to 3-year cycle. It is less work because the “leaps” are fewer and smaller (not huge hurdles). It is a smoother process.
- With a 3-year cycle, staff is much better trained, educated, and up to date.
- Regarding the equity discussion, he believes that the energy code is not the only factor that increases the cost of construction. Building officials need to better communicate the impact of increased cost of materials and labor.

### Boulder -

- Boulder is committed to 3-year cycle to get to net-zero energy goal
- There is a big focus on equity for home building codes. Boulder is starting to tailor the code to look at the size of home.
- They are also looking at ways to subsidize some of it as well, given the cost implications of the code requirements.

