

Energy Efficiency Standards

Issue Overview

Homes built following modern building energy codes are already energy efficient yet one of the more recent building energy codes (2021 IECC) contains requirements that have payback periods measuring in decades and in some cases over 100 years. As a result, mandating adherence to overly burdensome energy conservation requirements ~~C~~ particularly for new construction ~~C~~ adversely impacts housing affordability and disadvantages new homes. Likewise, it may not yield the intended results because most of the residential energy use is tied to the existing housing stock. Further, as prices rise and new homes become unattainable, potential home owners remain in older, less energy-efficient homes, which results in higher energy usage, higher emissions, increased likelihood of damage and lower standards of living.

For those consumers and builders who are interested in homes that offer features beyond the stringent recent code requirements, there are many government- code programs that encourage high-performance construction practices. These voluntary programs, which embrace consumer choice and provide market flexibility, have proven to be very successful in promoting and

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Solutions

f Support the ability of local jurisdictions to amend model building energy codes so they can address their . + \$! \$ " * " - + # \$ v *) * (\$) ' \$ (/ \$) . v) / *) . 0 - * (+ ' \$. (/

f Revise the EPA ENERGY STAR for Homes program to remove the 2021 IECC insulation backstops in favor of the insulation levels of the 2024 IECC, remove the prevailing wage requirements, and add the National