

Midwest Energy Codes Roundup

November 2019

Adoption: Recently Updated

Illinois – 2015 IECC to 2018 IECC: Residential & Commercial

Illinois formally adopted an amended version of the 2018 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) for residential and commercial buildings as the newest statewide energy code. The state is statutorily required to update the code every 3 years. The new code is an improvement in efficiency from their previous code, which was based on the 2015 IECC.

Adoption Date: June 11, 2019

Anticipated Effective Date: July 1, 2019

City of Chicago, Illinois – 2015 IECC to 2018 IECC: Residential & Commercial

The Chicago City Council voted to adopt major updates to the Chicago Building Code, including significant improvements to the city's energy code. Chicago is the only jurisdiction in Illinois that is permitted to have residential energy code provisions that differ from those set by the state. The city's new code is based on the 2018 IECC.

Adoption Date: April 10, 2019

Effective Date: June 1, 2019

Nebraska – 2009 IECC to 2018 IECC: Residential & Commercial

This legislative session, Governor Ricketts signed LB 405 into law. The bill updates Nebraska's statewide energy code to the unamended 2018 IECC for commercial and residential buildings, giving Nebraska the strongest energy codes in the Midwest.

Adoption Date: May 8, 2019

Effective Date: July 1, 2020

Ohio – 2009 IECC to 2018 IECC: Residential

Ohio formally adopted the 2018 International Residential Code (IRC) including the energy chapter (chapter 11). This adoption resulted in a slight improvement in efficiency from their previous code.

Adoption Date: December 14, 2018

Effective Date: July 1, 2019

City of Columbia, Missouri – 2015 IECC to 2018 IECC: Residential & Commercial

The Columbia City Council unanimously voted to adopt the unamended 2018 IECC as the new city-wide energy code for commercial and residential buildings. The council also included solar-ready provisions as part of the new code. This code is an improvement from their previous code (2015 IECC) and places Columbia as a leader in building energy efficiency in the Midwest.

Adoption Date: September 3, 2019

Effective Date: October 1, 2019

Adoption: In Process

Indiana – 2009 IECC to 2018 IECC: Residential

The Indiana Residential Code Committee (IRCC) published a draft of the 2018 IRC with recommended amendments for potential adoption. The proposed code does not include key efficiency improvements found in the model 2018 IRC, such as mandatory air leakage testing, improved insulation or efficient windows. The Indiana Fire Prevention and Building Safety Commission held a hearing to receive public comments on the proposed code. All comments were taken into consideration and discussed by the Commission.

Anticipated Adoption Date: November 2019

Anticipated Effective Date: December 31, 2019

Iowa – 2012 IECC to 2018 IECC: Residential & Commercial

The Iowa Building Code Advisory Council (BCAC) is currently reviewing the 2018 IECC for potential statewide adoption.

Anticipated Adoption Date: Unknown

Anticipated Effective Date: Unknown

Minnesota – 2012 IECC to 2018 IECC: Residential & Commercial

The Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry is wrapping up their review of the commercial provisions of the 2018 IECC for inclusion in the state's building code update. The Department has published a draft of the proposed energy efficiency rules for commercial buildings and public comments have been accepted on those rules. The state has postponed their review of the 2018 IECC until the U.S. Department of Energy releases their final determination on the efficiency of the code.

Anticipated Adoption Date: Unknown

Anticipated Effective Date: Unknown

Missouri Jurisdictions

The following jurisdictions in Missouri are currently in the process of updating their energy codes.

City of Springfield - 2006 IRC/2012 IBC to 2018 IECC: Residential & Commercial

Kansas City – 2012 IECC to 2018 IECC: Residential & Commercial

St. Louis County – 2009 IECC to 2018 IECC: Residential & Commercial

Kansas Jurisdictions

The following jurisdictions in Kansas are currently in the process of updating their energy codes.

City of Overland Park – 2012 IECC to 2018 IECC: Residential & Commercial

Contact: Nicole Westfall, Senior Building Policy Associate
nwestfall@mwalliance.org, 312-374-0918
20 N. Wacker Dr. Ste 1301, Chicago IL 60606 | www.mwalliance.org



Legislation

Minnesota

Minnesota House bill HF 2396 was introduced this legislative session but did not pass. The bill proposed the creation of a voluntary stretch code for commercial buildings in the state based on the Sustainable Buildings 2030 standard. The bill would have also allowed local jurisdictions to adopt the more efficient energy code. Minnesota is a min/max state, so local jurisdictions are currently not able to require more stringent building code requirements than the statewide code.

Benchmarking

Des Moines, Iowa

The City of Des Moines passed a mandatory benchmarking ordinance on June 6. The ordinance will require energy and water data reporting for city-owned buildings, commercial buildings and multifamily buildings over 25,000 square feet.

Edina, Minnesota

On June 4, 2019, Edina became the second city in Minnesota to pass a benchmarking ordinance. The ordinance requires all commercial and multifamily buildings larger than 25,000 square feet to report their energy and water usage to the city.

Compliance: Collaboratives

Illinois – Contact: Alison Lindburg, MEEA, alindburg@mwalliance.org

The Illinois Energy Codes Compliance Collaborative reconvened in May 2018 for a series of meetings held in various locations throughout the state, with an overall goal to help identify potential opportunities and resources for improving energy code compliance. The collaborative has also provided direction on an observational field study to help establish a baseline of common practices related to the energy codes.

Michigan – Contact: Jake Wilkinson, Michigan Energy Office, WilkinsonJ8@michigan.gov

The Michigan Energy Office convened the first Michigan Energy Codes Compliance Collaborative meeting this year. The group brings together stakeholders in the state to discuss challenges and opportunities with energy code compliance and has formed two subcommittees to focus on residential and commercial buildings separately. This year, the collaborative will have met 4 times and funded several projects aimed at improving compliance with the state's energy code.

Minnesota – Contact: Ben Rabe, Fresh Energy, rabe@fresh-energy.org

The Minnesota Energy Code Compliance Collaborative met once this year to discuss compliance programs going on in the state and provide feedback on resources intended to help with commercial energy code compliance. The Collaborative has been meeting since 2014 to work on compliance issues in the state.

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20 N. Wacker Dr. Ste 1301, Chicago IL 60606 | www.mwalliance.org



Missouri– *Contact: Ian Blanding, MEEA, iblanding@mwalliance.org*

The Ameren Missouri Energy Code Compliance Collaborative was established this year as part of the Ameren Missouri Residential Energy Code Support Program. The group met 3 times this year to identify compliance issues in the state and has a meeting scheduled for early 2020.

Nebraska– *Contact: Bruce Hauschild, Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy, Bruce.Hauschild@nebraska.gov*

The Nebraska Energy Code Compliance Collaborative met 3 times this year to discuss energy code compliance in the state. The group also played a large role in educating stakeholders and supporting the adoption of the model 2018 IECC in the state this year.

Compliance: Baseline Studies

Illinois – *Residential and Commercial (2018-2019)*

Data collection for the Illinois Residential and Commercial Energy Code Baseline Studies have been completed. Final analyses are expected to be complete by the end of the year.

Nebraska – *Residential and Commercial (2017-2020)*

A residential baseline study in Nebraska wrapped up in late 2018. Nebraska is participating in the climate zone 5 portion of the National Commercial Energy Code Field Study which is expected to be completed in 2020.

Minnesota – *Residential and Commercial (2018-????)*

Minnesota is currently conducting energy code baseline studies for both residential and commercial buildings funded by the Minnesota Department of Commerce. The studies began in 2018 and will continue into next year.

Compliance: Programs

Ameren Missouri – *Residential Energy Code Support Program (2019 – 2021)*

The Residential Energy Code Support Program from Ameren Missouri provides home builders, code officials and other industry professionals with trainings and educational resources designed to ensure quality, energy-efficient home design and construction. The key training and educational components for this program include in-person classroom style training, a proactive energy code consultant, energy code technical resources, and an energy code compliance collaborative.