

PRESS RELEASE 3/21/2024

NJ Chapter of Sierra Club responds with shock and dismay to the announcement that the International Code Council (ICC) Board of Directors had stripped its new model energy code of key energy efficiency and decarbonization measures that were developed by stakeholder consensus. In doing so, the Board has overruled its staff and stakeholders who worked for years to develop a strong 2024 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC).

NJ can no longer rely on the latest IECC as a source of increasingly strong energy efficiency standards for adoption into the NJ Uniform Construction Code. Key functionality has been lost by stripping high-performance "Electrification Ready" requirements from the IECC main code.

This is a loss not only for NJ but for all states and jurisdictions that in the past had adopted the model IECC totally or in part into their own Uniform Building Code. It means that each state individually will be forced to develop those high-performance measures for its own Uniform Construction Code. Perhaps most disappointing is the ICC board's disregard for the high retrofit costs that homeowners and businesses will now encounter when they begin to electrify buildings that have been built without the electrification-ready measures.

This means a loss in usefulness and status of IECC, as jurisdictions move to independent high performance building standards established by ENERGY STAR, Zero Home, LEED, or PASSIVE HOUSE certifications.