

# ACT

## Alliance for a Clean Texas

### Energy Efficiency

## 2009 IECC Building Code Fact Sheet

The International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) is a national, consensus-based, model code. The 2009 IECC provides a level playing field for builders, a common foundation for manufacturers and suppliers, and a standard for training and qualifying building officials and inspection personnel.

Over the past three years, a growing number of cities, including Dallas, Houston and Austin) have adopted more recent model codes than the current state minimum 2001 IECC. Many cities have amended these codes to increase required energy savings, satisfying policy interests and public expectation. However, the result is a patchwork of unique requirements.

The 2009 IECC is expected to result in significant energy savings and related emissions reductions, estimated at 12 to 15% annual improvement for average homes, with higher reductions in air conditioning electrical use.

**State-wide adoption of the 2009 IECC is required to receive the weatherization funds available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.**

#### Primary changes in residential construction:

- Required informative certificate of the energy features at or near the electrical panel for reference by homeowners or remodelers.
- Windows will have a lower Solar Heat Gain Coefficient. (Rejects 25% more heat from summer sun than the current code minimum.)
- At least half of light fixtures will have to be "high efficacy." (Lights have not been included in previous residential energy codes.)
- Ducts will meet standards for low leakage. (More cooled or heated air will get to where it is designed to go, increasing comfort while using less energy.)
- Buildings will have to meet standards for low leakage. Requirement met either by overall measurement (blower door test) or by more detailed inspection of places where leakage is often a problem.

#### Primary changes in commercial construction are:

- Requirements for more efficient lighting. (Higher lighting standards are included in codes adopted in most cities since 2001.)
- Requirements reflecting federal regulation of improved commercial HVAC equipment efficiency (in effect January 2010).
- Simplification and some general improvement of minimum requirements for wall and attic insulation and lower Solar Heat Gain through windows.