

ICLEI 30% Solution Fact Sheet

Local governments have an opportunity to influence America's most significant energy vote of 2008. ICLEI is partnering with the Energy Efficient Codes Coalition (EECC) to support the 30% Solution—a proposed update to the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) that will make the nearly one million new homes built in the United States each year 30% more energy efficient than those built to the existing energy standard.

The EECC—which includes such organizations as ICLEI, Alliance to Save Energy, National Association of State Energy Office, Architecture2030, Environment America, and the Sierra Club, among others—came together because these groups saw a real opportunity to advance energy efficiency in the 2009 update to the IECC.

The 30% Solution recognizes energy efficiency as a resource, one that can contribute positive solutions to the roiling debate our nation is having over energy—its ever-increasing cost, its impact on our natural environment and national security, and the path forward for addressing climate change.

As a community engaged with reducing its contribution to global warming, you know that the residential sector is a major contributor to your carbon footprint. Strong building energy codes, like the 30% Solution, are a key strategy for capturing greenhouse gas emissions from the built environment. The new homes that will be built in your community and in communities across the country can be a part of the climate change solution if they are constructed to the 30% Solution standards, standards that will reduce energy consumption while making homes more affordable and comfortable.

How does the 30% Solution work? The proposal builds on the solid foundation of the IECC by using “state-of-the-shelf” technologies and building practices, focusing on improvements in the thermal envelope, insulation, windows, HVAC equipment, and lighting, to dramatically improve the energy performance of new homes. These achievable and affordable improvements will reduce both the energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions of new residential construction.

Modeling completed by both the National Renewable Energy Lab and the Southwest Energy Efficiency Project suggests that the home energy improvements included in the 30% Solution will, at today's energy prices, pay for themselves in just over four years. When amortized over a 15-year or 30-year mortgage, these improvements begin to save homeowners money on their energy bills as soon as they move into their new home!

As a local government, you can engage with and influence this effort! But the time to act is now! The final vote on the 30% Solution will take place at the International Code Council (ICC) final action hearing in Minneapolis, Minnesota this September 21-22.

- Join the International Code Council by September 5. The cost for your local government to become a member is not more than \$280. [Visit the ICC website](#) for membership information and to join.
- Whether you are a new or existing member, send your jurisdiction's full contingent of delegates to the Final Action Hearing.
- Free the travel funds for the maximum number of delegates to attend the ICC Annual Meeting and Final Action Hearings in Minneapolis. **ICLEI is thrilled to offer travel scholarships to those local government representatives that are interested in representing their jurisdiction at the ICC hearing. [Learn more about this exciting opportunity now!](#)**
- Educate your ICC voting delegation on the importance of supporting the 30% Solution, and how this proposal will directly assist your local government in meeting its local climate protection goals.

Other Resources

The links below provide additional information on the 30% Solution, how it works and what it will accomplish, and its supporters. Please consider being part of this historic effort to advance energy efficiency!

30% Solution website:

www.thirtypercentsolution.org

Learn the details of the 30% Solution:

<http://www.thirtypercentsolution.org/modules/smartcontent/page.php?pageid=14>

Frequently asked questions:

<http://www.thirtypercentsolution.org/modules/smartsolution/page.php?pageid=1>

Myths and facts:

<http://www.thirtypercentsolution.org/modules/smartfacts/>

Learn more about the Final Action hearing:

<http://www.thirtypercentsolution.org/modules/smartfaq/category.php?categoryid=2>

The United States Conference of Mayors (USCM) has endorsed the 30% Solution.

· [Read USCM Resolution #54.](#)

· [Read a recent letter](#) in support of the 30% Solution that was sent to U.S. mayors by the mayors of New York City, San Francisco, Seattle, Minneapolis, Miami, and Austin.