



Utilities – Energy Board
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MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 2, 2025

TO: Mayor Arndt and City Councilmembers

FROM: Brian Smith, Energy Board Chairperson

RE: 2024 International Energy Conservation Code Adoption

BACKGROUND

At our regular meeting on August 14, 2025, the Fort Collins Energy Board received an update on Fort Collins Light & Power staff (Staff) proposed adoption of specific appendices from the 2024 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC). This was presented by Brad Smith, Senior Project Manager with Staff.

ENERGY BOARD DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS

The Energy Board has considered the proposed code adoptions as presented by staff in accordance with our chartered duties and functions, specifically:

- (1) To advise the City Council and staff regarding the development and implementation of the Our Climate Future Plan (OCF);
- (2) To advise the City Council and staff in developing City policies that encourage the incorporation of energy conservation and efficiency, carbon emissions reduction and renewable energy into the development and provision of City utility services, the design and construction of City transportation projects, and the way in which the City impacts the overall built environment within the community;
- (3) To advise the City Council and staff regarding the alignment of energy programs and policies with City, ratepayer and community values and service delivery expectations.

Overview

- The energy use of residential and commercial buildings accounts for 2/3 of the community carbon emissions in Fort Collins. It will be very challenging to achieve the community's climate goals and improve local air quality without reducing emissions from new residential and commercial buildings.
- Staff is proposing to adopt appendices from the 2024 IECC to help reduce emissions in new residential and commercial buildings. This will be accomplished through performance



pathways for new construction that “meet specified site energy use and specified emissions (i.e., fossil fuel) by building type.”

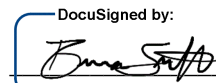
- Staff has been working with neighboring cities and counties to ensure regional alignment of code adoption. According to staff, neighboring cities and counties are adopting the 2024 IECC and potentially some with same appendices.
- Historically adoption of building energy codes and local amendments have improved the ongoing operation of the built environment, including reduced ongoing energy costs and improved air quality for owners and renters in Fort Collins. This code cycle, buildings will likely recognize 5% reduction in energy use, adding up to substantial savings over the life of a building.
- Eliminating wasteful electricity use in buildings at the time of construction will reduce upward pressure on already increasing utility rates by reducing future need for additional electricity generation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The Board recommends city council approve the proposed code changes by staff for the following reasons:
 - The proposed code amendment offers developers a performance path to achieve the specified site energy use and emissions targets. The performance path provides developers with greater flexibility to find the most cost-effective pathway towards achieving compliance. This approach to code compliance is preferred over mandating a prescriptive set of upgrades that can be cost prohibitive.
 - The adoption of the code amendment will further regional alignment of codes and maintain Fort Collins as a leader in code adoption.
 - The adoption of the code will further reduce the cost of ownership and maintenance of homes and commercial buildings. There are many upward pressures on the cost of construction, however this board recognizes the long-term benefits will outweigh the upfront costs.
 - The adoption of the code is one of the primary regulatory actions council can take in reducing emissions from buildings and will be an important, ongoing strategy in achieving the community’s climate goals.

As always, the Energy Board is grateful for the opportunity to provide comment and appreciates City Council’s consideration.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Energy Board,

DocuSigned by:

 Brian Preston Smith
 Energy Board Chairperson

cc: Brian Tholl, Energy Services Director
 Brad Smith, Project Manager
 Christie Fredrickson, Energy Board Support