Business and Community Affairs Committee

Home Energy Rating System (HERS) Energy Rating Index (ERI) Pilot Program
May 5, 2022

History of the Program

- **The HERS/ERI pilot program was created to encourage energy efficient residential home construction by offering credits to builders who build above Residential Energy Code minimums.**

- **The program started in July of 2018 and has been renewed 5 times and it is scheduled to expire June 30th 2022.**

- **The programs benchmark was established as a score of 65. In June of 2021 the benchmark was updated to 51 to reflect current trends of the energy code and pending State code updates.**

History of the Program (continued)

- **The below numbers represent current applications submitted to the HERS/ERI program (July 1, 2022 through April 30, 2022).**

    - **263 applicants applied to the HERS/ERI program.**
    - **12 homes received a Certificate of Occupancy (CO).**
    - **Zero (0) of the 12 homes that received a CO achieved the programs benchmark score of 51.**
    - **251 applicants remain enrolled in the program.**

History of the Program(continued)

Current HERS/ERI Program with a 51 benchmark	
41 or less	Builder pays no permit fees
42	Pays 5% of permit fees
43	Pays 10% of permit fees
44	Pays 15% of permit fees
45	Pays 20% of permit fees
46	Pays 25% of permit fees
47	Pays 30% of permit fees
48	Pays 35% of permit fees
49	Pays 40% of permit fees
50	Pays 45% of permit fees
51	Pays 50% of permit fees

The credit is the building permit fee of .14 cents per square foot of project area. To receive the full credit a home must achieve a HERS/ERI score of 41.

Example: A 2,000 square foot home with a 400 square foot garage and 200 square foot covered patio has a project area of 2600 square ft. This project would be eligible for a $364 credit. (2600x.14=$364)

Current Energy Code Activity

- The Oklahoma Uniform Building Code Commission (OUBCC) is the State body that reviews and adopts the minimum building codes for all jurisdictions in the State of Oklahoma, this includes Building, Electrical, Mechanical, Plumbing and Energy Codes.

- In 2021 a Technical Committee reviewed the 2018 Energy Codes for adoption as state wide minimums. Their recommendations were rejected by the OUBCC board, and the Energy code was not updated.

- With the rejection of the Residential Energy Code by the board the energy requirements for homes was shifted to a new committee. Their recommendations for residential energy codes was accepted by the board and are currently pending acceptance by the legislature/governor. If accepted these provisions are anticipated to take effect in September of 2022.

Energy Code Activity

ERI	Code Cycle (IECC Year)
100	2006
80	2009
70	2012
65	Previous City of Norman benchmark
64	**Current State proposed benchmark**
51	2015
51	**Current City of Norman benchmark**
57	2018
51	2021

Current Energy Code Activity

Minimum Energy Codes in Texas
Norman correlates to Climate Zone 3

Climate Zone	Sept. 1, 2016-2019	Sept. 1, 2019-2022	Sept. 1, 2022-2025
CZ2	65	63	59
CZ3	65	63	59
CZ4	69	67	63

Staff Recommendations

Option 1: Let the Program Expire?

- **Let the program expire, and see if the State code is adopted (possibly September). During this time more data points can be gathered from the 250 plus homes currently enrolled in the program. With this data collection and knowledge of the State's benchmark, a better informed decision can be made about the program's future.**

Staff Recommendations (continued)

Option 2: Continue the Program with the current benchmark ERI of 51.

- **Keep the benchmark at a 51, which is in line with the 2015 and 2021 codes.**

- **If the State updates to the proposed 64 ERI our benchmark is a clear improvement to this standard.**

Staff Recommendations (continued)

Option 3: Continue the Program but change the benchmark to consider the proposed State standard of a 64.

ERI	Code Cycle (IECC Year)
100	2006
80	2009
70	2012
65	Previous City of Norman Benchmark
64	**Current State Proposed Benchmark**
51	2015
51	**Current City of Norman Benchmark**
57	2018
51	2021

- The updated ERI should be a notable improvement over any currently adopted code.
- A 57 would be justifiable as it is the published standard in the 2018 IRC.
- If we are considering this option increasing the pilot programs duration to a 2-years minimum would insure a better data sample when re-evaluation occurs.

Questions?

- **Option 1, Option 2, Option 3? Other proposed ideas?**
- **Program duration if renewed?**

Other direction?