

Scope: The International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) addresses energy efficiency on several fronts including cost, energy usage, use of natural resources and the impact of energy usage on the environment. By adopting the IECC, a city ensures that development aligns with nationally recognized energy standards while allowing for local amendments that reflect the unique needs and priorities of the community.

Significant Changes (including changes made in the 2021 version noted in parentheses on which year the change took effect. The 2024 version has not released a formal document for Significant Changes for a more succinct summary, but some changes are listed below):

The intent of the content below is not intended to capture each change to the text of the code for all items related to restructuring or moving content, updates to definitions/clarifications, or minor provisions with insignificant impact. More context can be provided upon request for any of the changes that have occurred in each of the code editions.

Chapter CE1 Scope and Administration

[No significant changes]

Chapter CE2 Definitions

[No significant changes]

Chapter CE3 General Requirements

- The climate zone provisions have been comprehensively updated and include a new Climate Zone 0. Ten percent of U.S. counties are now in a new climate zone (KC Metro is largely unaffected) (2021).

Chapter CE4 Commercial Energy Efficiency

- Restructuring this chapter due to the need for better clarity for designers (2021).
- A requirement for the completion of a thermal envelope certificate, which serves as a permanent record of the envelope components installed in the building, is introduced (2021).
- Minimum insulation and fenestration (window) energy efficiency requirements are increased. Main impacts are to attics and unheated slabs (2021).
- Clearer requirements outlined for roofing insulation (2021).
- Large, operable openings such as roll-up doors and windows must now be interlocked with the heating and cooling system (2021).
- Various minor updates to HVAC equipment and lighting control systems (2021).
- Energy monitoring requirements are added to measure and retain the intended energy performance of a building, only for buildings over 10,000 sf (2021).
- Added requirements for thermal bridges in above-grade walls (2024).
- Added minimum efficiency requirements for boilers, water pumps, (2024).
- Updates to on-site and off-site renewable energy generation and associated certificates/documentation (2024).
- Updates to the “Additional Efficiency, Renewable, and Load Management Requirements” (2021 & 2024).

Chapter CE5 Existing Buildings

[No significant changes]

Chapter CE6 Referenced Standards

- Nearly all referenced standards have had an updated edition since 2018.

Chapter RE1 Scope and Administration

[No significant changes]

Chapter RE2 Definitions

[No significant changes]

Chapter RE3 General Requirements

- The climate zone provisions have been comprehensively updated and include a new Climate Zone 0. Ten percent of U.S. counties are now in a new climate zone (KC Metro is largely unaffected) (2021 & 2024).

Chapter RE4 Residential Energy Efficiency

- Minimum insulation and fenestration (window) energy efficiency requirements are increased. Main impacts are to attics and unheated slabs (2021).
- A requirement for the completion of a renewable energy certificate, which serves as a permanent record of the envelope components installed in the building, is introduced (2024).
- Updated air leakage testing requirements (2024).
- Duct testing is now expanded to ducts inside the thermal envelope (2021).
- Mechanical Systems now required to be tested to match the corresponding Commercial section (2021).
- Exterior residential requirements are now present (2021).
- Various minor updates to HVAC equipment and lighting control systems (2021).
- Energy Rating Index method has now been updated to reflect greater energy efficiency targets (2021).

Chapter RE5 Existing Buildings

- A “change is space” designation will now require low-energy spaces to now meet conditioned space requirements (2024).

Chapter RE6 Referenced Standards

- Nearly all referenced standards have had an updated edition since 2018.