



Accelerate residential energy codes for cleaner, more efficient homes

What are building codes?

Building codes establish the minimum standards for a building's quality, safety, energy use, and construction. Minnesota's energy code is energy agnostic—it does not require homeowners to use renewable energy. Instead, it enables buildings to use less energy, regardless of the source.

Minnesota's residential building code must support state climate targets.

A carbon-free energy economy requires buildings that sip, not guzzle, energy. Minnesota's historic 2023 legislative session passed a requirement for the commercial energy code to achieve 70% or greater reduction in annual net energy consumption by 2038.

However, this does not cover smaller residential properties or single-family homes. **Minnesota's residential energy code lacks an energy savings target like the commercial energy code**, which reduces the likelihood of meeting state climate targets, and leaves residents of small and single-family buildings out of beneficial efficiency improvements.

The solution is simple, but we must act now.

Accelerate efficiency in the residential energy code to decrease energy waste, save consumers money, and help meet climate goals. This proposal will require the Department of Labor and Industry to adopt a 2038 residential energy code that achieves an 70% reduction in energy use compared to the 2006 code.

Energy-efficient housing will save money, reduce emissions, build resilience.

Energy efficient homes save homeowners and renters money. The Federal National Mortgage Association (Fannie Mae) found that utility costs are the largest non-mortgage cost to homeowners. Improving home energy efficiency reduces monthly expenses and provides comfort, health, and safety benefits, including better indoor environmental quality and increased resilience to extreme weather events.

Establishing a Residential Energy Rating Rebate Program

This bill covers the cost of energy rating services for new homes that achieve the US Department of Energy's Zero Energy Ready Home (ZERH) certification, bringing federal incentives to Minnesota and supporting builders in Greater Minnesota. The new rebate program would offer full reimbursement of energy rating services required for ZERH certification, up to \$5,000 per single family home and up to \$2,500 per unit in multifamily housing (\$15,000 max per building).



More efficient buildings save homeowners and renters money.



More efficient buildings provide a range of additional health, safety, and welfare benefits.



Building residences to a higher standard will also increase resilience to extreme weather events.

Support stronger building codes for an efficient, resilient future.

Minnesota's buildings sector contributes to roughly 40 percent of our current greenhouse gas emissions—and that number continues to rise. Accelerating efficiency in the residential energy code is crucial to slowing and reversing this trend while **prioritizing the health and pocketbooks of all Minnesotans** by building the next generation of energy-efficient, resilient buildings.

Want to join us?

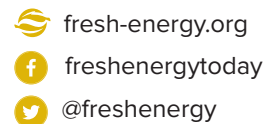
Contact Fresh Energy staff Eric Fowler, senior policy associate, buildings, at fowler@fresh-energy.org or Anna Johnson, senior manager, state and local affairs at johnson@fresh-energy.org.

Sources:

<https://www.minnpost.com/environment/2023/05/minnesota-lawmakers-update-commercial-building-code-amid-flurry-of-energy-bills/>

<https://fresh-energy.org/improving-energy-codes-for-health-savings-and-climate>

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