



Codes and Standards

What You Should Know

DEC 2024

**News from the
International
Code Council**

**What's up
with DOE and
EPA?**

**State
Happenings
Other News**

IECC 2027 Code Development

With the start of the IECC 2027 code development process, AGA submitted several code proposals December 9th which largely addressed language from the 2024 IECC that was restrictive to natural gas as well as incorporating additional language to more fully accommodate renewable gases and technologies such as gas heat pumps.

AGA Comments

The International Code Council has named the IECC 2027 Residential and Commercial Consensus Committee members. That announcement is here: [announcement](#). The link to both rosters is here: [rosters](#). In addition, the first public meetings of the Commercial and Residential consensus committees were held December 17th and 18th.

ICC has also provided guidance on the applications for Residential and Commercial subcommittees: “Following these initial meetings, it is anticipated that applications for interested parties to serve as voting members on the various IECC Residential and Commercial subcommittees will open on December 20th and close on January 3rd at 11:59 pm Pacific. Applications can be found at the following link.”

Those interested should consider applying.

AGA provided comments August 19th asserting the importance of decarbonization and asserting the primacy of energy efficiency in the IECC. AGA’s comments reflect the inclusion of greenhouse gas reduction resources which achieve additional energy efficiency and are fuel neutral in non-mandatory appendices. Further, AGA comments seek a fully transparent code development process. [AGA Files Comments on 2027 IECC Draft Scope and Intent - American Gas Association](#)

Engagement in Code Development

Engagement in code development by a broad array of natural gas users remains important to ensure access to a diverse energy supply. Though the application period for residential and commercial IECC consensus committees concluded August 19th, opportunities for participation on IECC subcommittees will open soon.

ASHRAE 90.1

ASHRAE issued a public review period concluding November 10, 2024 to modify the purpose and scope of ASHRAE 90.1-2022. The two proposed modifications would (1) establish requirements and criteria for considering building and site operational greenhouse gas emissions and (2) cover the installation of EV requirements. AGA submitted comments raising serious concerns that the requirements in both proposed modifications would conflict with the stated purpose of ASHRAE 90.1 of establishing minimum energy efficiency requirements of buildings.

PHMSA

PHMSA Advisory Bulletin ADB–2024–01, Identification and Evaluation of Potential Hard Spots—In Line Inspection Tools and Analysis PHMSA issued this advisory bulletin to notify pipeline owners and operators of the importance of evaluating pipeline facilities for the existence and potential threat of hard spots in the pipe body.

<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2024-11-18/pdf/2024-26725.pdf>

PHMSA advises that pipeline owners and operators should consider expanding their hard spot threat evaluation to all pipe manufactured prior to 1970, regardless of manufacturer; collecting and analyzing data associated with hard spot magnetic flux leakage in-line inspection tools; and following industry best practices when conducting in-line inspection

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Other News

CSA committee week update

CSA US Committee week was held in Philadelphia October 21 – 24, 2023. Many Technical Committees and Subcommittees met to discuss business and take actions on issues when required. A big part of this year's discussion involved the use of hydrogen admixtures in appliances and engines. Much information and ideas were exchanged between the participants. One of the big issues the committees and subcommittees centers around how to change the standards to accommodate testing of appliances with hydrogen admixtures.

Much more work needs to occur in the hydrogen – natural gas arena. “Paths-forward” were identified and discussed. Any new information that comes up will be shared by SGA discussion involved the use of hydrogen admixtures in appliances and engines. Much information and ideas were exchanged between the participants. One of the big issues the committees and subcommittees centers around how to change the standards to accommodate testing of appliances with hydrogen admixtures. Much more work needs to occur in the hydrogen – natural gas arena. “Paths-forward” were identified and discussed. Any new information that comes up will be shared by SGA .

State Happenings

Washington

Washington State Bill 2066

The language of this bill prohibited state and local governments from restricting access to natural gas and would prohibit the state building code council from prohibiting, discouraging, or penalizing the use of natural gas in any building. It also required gas companies and utility companies, or any cities or towns that provide natural gas, to provide natural gas to any person or corporation even if other energy services or energy sources may be available.

In addition, the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) was prohibited from approving any multiyear rate plan requiring or incentivizing a natural gas company or utility company to terminate natural gas service or implementing requirements that would make access to natural gas service cost-prohibitive.

House Bill 2066 further removed a current provision in state law in House Bill 1589 passed by the state legislature requiring the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission to evaluate alternatives to current and planned gas infrastructure projects and achieve all cost-effective electrification of end uses currently served by natural gas. Combo utility companies serving over 500,000 gas customers would have to offer programs and incentives for customers to decarbonize homes and buildings and set a 2027 deadline for utilities to submit plans to the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC), showing how much it would cost to electrify Washington's power grid.

The bill was put on the ballot through the efforts of Project Energy Choice <https://www.protectenergychoice.com/about>. There was broad support for 2066 from many industry associations and individual local business <https://www.biaw.com/energy-choice/>. The people of Washington State spoke loud and clear that they want energy choice.

Berkley Voters defeat “Fossil Free Berkley” ballot measure

Two-thirds of Berkley CA voters said no to a ballot measure “Measure GG” that would have imposed an excise tax on generating gas emissions in buildings with at least 15,000 square feet of gross floor area. If it had passed, the measure would have been very expensive to small businesses, non-profits, grocery stores, restaurants— any business that have over 15,000 square feet of floor area. It proposed a \$2.96 tax for every 100 cubic feet of gas consumed in buildings 15,000 square feet or larger starting January 1, 2025. Businesses affected by the measure would have had until January 1st to electrify or suffer this tax. One business estimated that the measure would have cost them \$90,000 per year.

SCAN ME



IECC 2027 Call for Committees

Contact Tom Schultz with any questions

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