



DRAFT Ordinance/Resolution NO. ____

WHEREAS, the ____ [legislative body] of _____ [state/county/city/town] desires to maintain a set of minimum regulations that keeps pace with advancing building science and current building practice in order to protect public health, safety and the environment from hazards presented by buildings and our built world; and

WHEREAS, building owners, occupants and the community demand and expect that all buildings in ____ [jurisdiction] are designed, constructed and renovated in accordance with minimum acceptable health and safety standards; and

WHEREAS, building owners, occupants and the community are increasingly demanding and expecting that buildings in ____ [jurisdiction] are designed, constructed and renovated in accordance with today's building best practices that can not only yield greater savings through energy and water efficiency, but that can also reduce waste, reduce a building's impact on environmental health, and contribute to a more comfortable and connected community; and

WHEREAS, building codes are a critical policy tool to ensure that these minimum health, safety, efficiency, and responsible building practice safeguards are observed in the design, construction and renovation of buildings in our community; and

WHEREAS, when properly enforced, building codes provide a level playing field for the design and construction community and provide consumers with a market of buildings that respect the community's minimum established thresholds of acceptable risk to health, safety, welfare and the environment; and

WHEREAS, ____ [appropriate state/county/city/town code review body] reviews improvements to our ____ [state/county/city/town] building codes ____ [insert frequency, i.e. every three years] to improve public health, safety and welfare while also considering cost, current building science, policy drivers and other factors; and

WHEREAS, national model codes have long existed for improved building energy efficiency in the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) [see International Code Council (ICC) [website](#)] and ASHRAE Standard 90.1 (Standard 90.1) [see American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) [website](#)], and 2009 federal law requires that states demonstrate 90% compliance with at least the 2009-IECC and Standard 90.1-2010 by 2017 [learn more about [Section 410 of ARRA](#)], and newer versions now exist that offer further improvements in building energy efficiency; and

WHEREAS, better, greener buildings that address the human and environmental health impacts of buildings across critical impact areas such as energy, water, waste, materials selection, project site and the indoor environment address longer-term risks and hazards attributed to the built environment that are not adequately addressed in our current building codes; and

WHEREAS, over the course of the last six years, green building policy experts from government, Non-Governmental Organizations, and a wide range of building industry stakeholders have built a set of national model codes known as the International Green Construction Code (IgCC) [see ICC [website](#)], administered by the International Code Council, and including similarly intended ASHRAE Standard 189.1 [see ASHRAE [website](#)], which now serve as a first-ever common language for baseline, minimum, green commercial building practice;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The ____ [legislative body of state/county/city/town] endorse the greening of our ____ [state/county/city/town]'s building codes to ensure that buildings designed, built and renovated in our community meet minimum acceptable criteria for energy efficiency, water efficiency, materials use, project site impacts, and indoor environmental quality. To achieve this, the following shall be enacted:

Section 1:

- (a) The ____ [appropriate state/county/city/town code review body] shall establish a task force [if one has not already been started] to review the contents of the International Green Construction Code and its Standard 189.1 compliance pathway for possible adoption alongside existing building regulations for healthy, safe and responsible buildings. The most current versions of the International Energy Conservation Code and ASHRAE Standard 90.1 shall also be considered.
- (b) The ____ [appropriate state/county/city/town code review body] shall review the recommendations from the task force and take action to incorporate as many elements as possible by no later than ____ [18 months] from the date of this act.
- (c) To ensure that long-term risks are adequately assessed, any action by the ____ [name of appropriate state/county/city/town code review body] shall be made in light costs incurred over the lifecycle of the building.



Section 2:

- (a) The ____ [appropriate state/county/city/town code review body] shall appoint at least one individual as a voting member of the ____ [board/commission] who is experienced and knowledgeable in green building, design, construction, and operations in accordance with this section. [see also 2011 California act [AB 930](#)]
- (b) The ____ [appropriate state/county/city/town code review body] shall select the voting member described in Section (2)(a) from amongst the public. Current sitting members of the ____ [board/commission] are eligible should they meet the qualifications established in this section.
- (c) The the voting member described in Section (2)(a) shall meet the following minimum qualifications:
 - a. Demonstrated knowledge and experience working with state and local building codes and standards;
 - b. Demonstrated knowledge and experience with green buildings, including project experience using third-party verified green building rating systems;
 - c. Familiarity with national model green building codes and standards, such as the International Green Construction Code;
 - d. Maintain a LEED professional credential.

For more information on USGBC's work to green the codes, read [Greening the Codes](#) (white paper) and [LEED and Green Building Codes](#) (policy brief).

For information from the International Code Council on adopting the IECC or the IgCC, see their [adoption ordinances](#).