

A MINNESOTA ADVANCED BUILDING PERFORMANCE STANDARD

WHAT:

An advanced building performance standard could be offered as an optional appendix to the state's building code allowing cities to adopt a higher energy standard for new and major renovation commercial and multifamily buildings. The appendix would be available to jurisdictions as a uniform, advanced energy standard.

WHY:

An advanced building performance standard is necessary to allow the State and cities to cost effectively meet our climate and other clean energy goals. The State of Minnesota, and many cities, have climate action goals that call for an 80% reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050, but we are not on track to meet these goals. New and renovated buildings are a significant source of GHG emissions and must be addressed.

Today, Minnesota cities cannot require that commercial buildings be designed and constructed to meet a standard above the state code, thereby limiting the carbon reduction cities can achieve. Cities view the rapid growth in new commercial and multifamily development as a major missed opportunity to have an impact and want to act soon. Additionally, an advanced building performance standard would have a positive impact on job growth in the building construction, building operations, and design sectors.

HISTORY & BACKGROUND OF THE ADVANCED BUILDING PERFORMANCE STANDARD EFFORT:

- An advanced building standard was recognized as a key GHG reduction strategy more than a decade ago, first through the state-led MN Climate Change Advisory Group stakeholder process 2008 report and again through the EQB-led Climate Solutions and Economic Opportunities (CSEO) project in 2014.
- In 2019, state Rep. Jamie Long authored a bill to create an advanced building performance standard
 - Voluntary option for cities to adopt
 - Supported by 12 cities around the state, League of Minnesota Cities, AIA-MN
 - Sen. Dave Senjem sponsored the bill in the senate
 - Passed in House energy omnibus bill; negotiated out during conference committee
- Fall 2019: Convened three city-led workshops to identify common interests and solutions, engaging 22 cities statewide
 - Utilities, architectural community, design engineers, and insurance industry participation
 - Other stakeholder meetings: trade groups, affordable housing, multifamily builder assoc.
- Departments of Commerce (Commerce) and Labor & Industry (DLI) host a broad stakeholder process
 - Five meetings between October 2019 – January 2020
 - Includes contractors, trades, multifamily, energy efficiency, cities, and legislators

PARTICIPATING CITIES & GUEST STAKEHOLDERS

Planning Team Cities: Bloomington, Edina, Minneapolis, Rochester, St. Louis Park, and Saint Paul

Collaborators: Twenty-three total engaged cities, AIA MN, USGBC MN, investor owned, corporative, and municipal electric and natural gas utilities, and Insurance Federation of MN.

SOME WAYS TO SUPPORT:

- Pass a resolution pledging your city's support
- Request lawmakers support – legislators, DLI and Commerce Commissioners, Governor's Office
- Testify at a legislative committee hearing

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EXAMPLES FROM OTHER STATES/PROVINCES:

MASSACHUSETTS *(Adopted 2009)*

- Performance-driven code
- Being updated as a net-zero stretch code

NEW YORK CITY *(Adopted 2015)*

- Reduces building energy use by 23% (2012 baseline)

BRITISH COLUMBIA *(Adopted 2017)*

- Voluntary provincial standard
- Reaches net-zero energy ready by 2032