

# ICC Government Relations' Monthly Update



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## **January 17 webinar explains process for \$530 million funds to adopt latest zero building energy codes**

The [U.S. Department of Energy](#) (DOE) last month [announced \\$530 million](#) will be awarded in new competitive grant funding to support states, territories, and local and tribal governments seeking to adopt the 2021 and subsequent IECC editions as well as the IECC's zero energy appendices. Of the \$530 million, between 40 and 200 awards will be made, with funding ranging from \$1 to \$20 million, with no cost-sharing requirements. An informational webinar on Wednesday, January 17, will walk applicants through the application process. [Click here to register for the webinar](#), which will begin at 2 p.m.

Eastern. Additional information is included within the full [Funding Opportunity Announcement \(FOA\)](#), and [Q&A Spreadsheet](#). [Click here](#) for the Code Council's factsheet on this new opportunity. Our team is available for grant application assistance. Click this "[Schedule a Consultation](#)" link to book a virtual meeting with the Code Council's Energy and Resilience Project Manager Stella Carr. [Read more here](#).

## **Code Council partners with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to address water scarcity and safety**

The Code Council recently signed a Decentralized Wastewater Management Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and its partner organizations. Through this agreement, the Code Council will provide leadership and resources to regulate and educate on the importance of responsible management of wastewater systems. One in five homes in the U.S. relies on private decentralized wastewater systems. The MOU is a continuation of a decades-long collaboration between the Code Council and the EPA which included information sharing on system technology, training initiatives, public awareness campaigns on septic system maintenance, and the development of materials on decentralized wastewater systems. [Read more here](#).

## **ICC and MBI develop new off-site construction standard as part of ICC's 1200 series of standards**

The International Code Council, in partnership with the [Modular Building Institute](#) (MBI), has published a new off-site construction standard that was recently approved by the [American National Standards Institute](#). [ICC/MBI 1210-2023, Standard for Mechanical, Electrical, Plumbing Systems, Energy Efficiency and Water Conservation in Off-site Construction](#), addresses mechanical, electrical and plumbing system elements (MEP) used in off-site construction with respect to energy efficiency, water conservation, planning, designing, fabricating, transporting, and assembly within commercial and residential buildings. This new standard is part of the Code Council's 1200 series of standards that aim to address challenges faced by the [off-site construction industry](#). This includes the componentization and modularization of elements of MEP systems, the incorporation of MEP systems in componentized, panelized or modularized building elements, and the achievement of energy efficiency and water conservation requirements in off-site construction. [Read more here](#).

## **Here's how Lexington, Kentucky, used BRIC funding for its building department accreditation**

By taking advantage of improved digitization and modernization, the City of Lexington, Kentucky bolstered its inspection processes between 2018 and 2019. A cornerstone of this initiative was the pursuit of Building Department Accreditation (BDA) through the [International Accreditation Service \(IAS\)](#). BDA signifies a building department's commitment to delivering high-quality services, adhering to proven best practices and ensuring the safety and welfare of the communities they serve. Grant funding obtained through the [Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities \(BRIC\) program](#) was key to the city's transformation. This federal grant program is designed to support communities in their efforts to build resilience against natural disasters and other hazards and is funded by FEMA. [Read more here](#).

## **SAVE THE DATES! Eighth Annual Chapter Leadership Academy set for April 5-7 in Orlando, Florida**

The popular 8th Annual Chapter Leadership Academy will take place during the Code Council's Leadership Week held in conjunction with the 2024 Committee Action Hearings – Group A. It will be

held at the DoubleTree at the entrance to Universal Orlando. Don't miss this excellent opportunity to earn CEUs, brainstorm with peers and learn effective methods for advancing your Chapter. Registration opens late January. Mark these dates on your calendar:

- **April 5** - Chapter Leadership Academy
- **April 6** - Chapter Leadership Academy (morning)
  - Keynote Speaker (afternoon)
  - Building Safety Month event (evening)
- **April 7** Networking opportunities
  - Panel Discussion/Lunch

Academy events will conclude at 2 pm on April 7. Chapter leaders will be reimbursed for travel plus lodging expenses for check-in on April 4 through check-out on April 7. A Chapter in good standing may choose between sending a leader to the Chapter Leadership Academy, including reimbursement for travel and lodging, OR a complimentary registration to the Annual Conference (does not include reimbursement for travel or lodging). If you have any questions, please contact your staff liaison or email [Ron Piester](#). Other ICC activities will also be held, including Membership Council Governing Committee Meetings in the morning of April 7 and the start of the Committee Action Code Hearings in the afternoon and continuing through April 16.

### **Twelve of the 2024 International Codes® are now available for orders through the Code Council store**

The International Code Council's [2024 International Codes®](#) (I-Codes) are now available for order in print and digital formats. As part of the Code Council's digital transformation strategy to enhance the user experience, the updated I-Codes® have undergone substantial design and formatting changes, resulting in a updated design that improves both readability and sustainability. The recently released I-Codes include the 2024 editions of the:

- [2024 International Building Code®](#)
- [2024 International Plumbing Code®](#)
- [2024 International Mechanical Code®](#)
- [2024 International Existing Building Code®](#)
- [2024 International Swimming Pool and Spa Code®](#)
- [2024 International Private Sewage Disposal Code®](#)
- [2024 International Property Maintenance Code®](#)
- [2024 International Zoning Code®](#)
- [2024 International Wildland-Urban Interface Code®](#)
- [2024 ICC Performance Code®](#)
- [2024 International Fuel Gas Code®](#)

The 2024 edition of the [International Fire Code®](#) was made available for pre-order in November and now the soft cover and loose leaf are available in the store. Digital is live. Additional IFC print products are forthcoming. The 2024 editions of the [International Energy Conservation Code®](#), [International Residential Code®](#) and [International Green Construction Code®](#) will be available in coming weeks.

### **CALL FOR COMMITTEE: Acoustics of Built Environment Consensus Committee deadline is January 12**

The International Code Council is currently seeking manufacturers, builders, code officials, design professionals, government regulators, consumers and other industry stakeholders to volunteer for the [Acoustics of the Built Environment Consensus Committee](#) (IS-ABEC). The Code Council, an ANSI and SCC accredited standard developing organization, is collaborating with Accessibility Standards Canada to create a new accessibility standard. This standard will focus on various aspects of acoustic design in the built environment, including wayfinding, noise control, design for spaces with special acoustic considerations, and more. Once appointed, this committee will have primary responsibility for the development of minimum requirements and standards through the new ASC/ICC A118 -202X entitled Acoustics of the Built Environment. **The deadline for applications is January 12.** [Click here](#) to apply.

### **MISSION POSSIBLE: 2024 Building Safety Month will focus on public involvement in building safety**

The month-long educational campaign, which raises awareness about the importance of building codes in establishing and ensuring the safety of the built environment, kicks off on May 1. This year's theme, **"Mission Possible"** encourages people to get involved in all aspects of building safety. Each year, the

Code Council, its members and global communities celebrate building safety through proclamations, educational events and community gatherings. Building Safety Month 2024 will explore how building safety is a mission that is only possible when we work together with our local communities for positive change. The weekly themes for this year's campaign are:

- Week One (May 1–4): "Understanding the Mission"
- Week Two (May 5–11): "Preparing a Building Safety Plan"
- Week Three (May 12–18): "Learning from the Pros"
- Week Four (May 19–25): "Engaging Your Community"
- Week Five (May 26–31): "Celebrating Success in Building Safety"

"Building safety should never be taken for granted," said Code Council Board President Stuart Tom, P.E., CBO, FIAE. "By working together and spreading awareness of building codes and the role they play in ensuring safety in the built environment, we can protect the spaces where we live, work, play and learn." The Code Council provides resources to promote Building Safety Month including safety tips, promotional graphics and resources for students. More details about the 2024 Building Safety Month will be released in the coming months. Be sure to visit [here](#) for more information. Show your commitment to building safety and become a Building Safety Month sponsor by visiting [here](#). View the 2024 BSM Poster [here](#). And you can [download](#) and [get instructions here](#) on 2024 BSM proclamations.

### **Launch of the Buildings Breakthrough at COP28 supported by 28 nations, including USA and China**

During the thematic day for Multilevel Action, Urbanization and Built Environment/Transport held recently at the global climate conference, COP28, the Buildings Breakthrough was formally launched. The Buildings Breakthrough is a cross-sectoral campaign to support governments in the universal adoption and implementation of near-zero emission and resilient buildings by 2030. It is supported by 18 private sector-led initiatives, including the [Building Capacity for Sustainable and Resilient Buildings Initiative](#) led by the International Code Council. [Read more here](#).

### **FEMA releases its 2023 annual report to identify strengths and weaknesses of disaster preparedness**

The [Federal Emergency Management Agency](#) (FEMA) recently released its annual [2023 National Preparedness Report \(NPR\)](#) which provides an overview of the current state of national preparedness for all levels of government and identifies strengths and areas for improvement.

This year's NPR focuses on the four core trends to provide a clearer understanding of risks and capabilities. These capabilities are based on data trends from the [2022 National Household Survey on Disaster Preparedness, Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment](#), the [Stakeholder Preparedness Review](#) and the [National Stakeholder Preparedness Review](#). [Read more here](#).

### **Code officials and stake holders benefit when they collaborate to improve standards and regulations**

Code enforcement officers are always finding new ways to address violations and safety concerns within their communities. Many times, they rely on the expertise of coworkers, or governmental agencies, to assist in finding a resolution to an often tricky, and possibly politically driven, circumstance. It is crucial that code enforcement officers maintain a collaborative mindset in order for their community to benefit as a whole from their work. [Read more here](#).



### **ICC Plumbing, Mechanical and Fuel Gas updates**

#### **Code Council, key industry stakeholders collaborate to resolve global water supply's problems, threats**

The development, adoption and enforcement of new plumbing standards is essential to ensuring safe, efficient and sustainable water distribution systems that safeguard public health and conserve resources for future generations. Understanding this, the International Code Council, a leading global source of model codes, standards, and building safety solutions, has been expanding its engagement into the plumbing, mechanical and fuel gas (PMG) industries. To ensure that all communities have access to hygienic water, the Code Council is actively bringing together key industry stakeholders to discuss the global water supply's problems and threats. Some of these issues include:

- Problems with private sewage systems
- Older plumbing infrastructure
- Inefficiencies in water management

- Pollution and runoff
- Improper groundwater management

The [Flint water crisis](#), which started on April 25, 2014, illustrated the devastating consequences of neglecting proper plumbing infrastructure maintenance (Ruckart et al., 2019). [Read more here.](#)

### **Discover the new 2021 International Water Conservation Code Provisions (IWCCP)**

The new [International Water Conservation Code Provisions \(IWCCP\)](#) is the industry's all-in-one resource, encompassing the 2021 International Codes and selected standards for water conservation. It's designed for seamless implementation of water systems, catering to both commercial and residential projects. [Read more here.](#)

### **ICC's Mark Fasel provides insights to trends foreseen in recent Plumbing & Mechanical Engineer article**

Looking ahead in 2024, there could be a boost to construction associated with manufacturing, transportation infrastructure and clean energy infrastructure as funds from three key pieces of legislation passed in 2021 and 2022 — the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), and the Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors (CHIPS) Act — are expected to flow into the industry, according to Deloitte's 2024 Engineering and Construction Industry Outlook. As such, construction confidence remains high, with the Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) identifying expectations for an increase in profit margins and staffing levels, particularly in the first half of 2024. There are several trends to keep an eye on in 2024, according to Mark Fasel, director, PMG technical resources for the International Code Council (ICC). [Read more here.](#)



### **ICC Evaluation Services updates**

#### **First certification, issued to Cabinetworks Group, verifies manufacturer's compliance with criteria**

The ICC Evaluation Service (ICC-ES) has unveiled a new certification program that utilizes its proprietary Environmental Criteria for Safe and Sustainable Cabinetry (EC118). The Safe and Sustainable Cabinetry (SASC) Program provides independent and comprehensive third-party verification for cabinet manufacturers on the performance, sustainability and environmental requirements outlined in EC118. SASC is the first program in the industry that requires ISO/IEC 17065-accredited third-party evaluation of cabinets to the performance and construction standard ANSI A161.1. It also requires independent verification of compliance with US EPA TSCA Title VI. [Read more here.](#)

#### **Manufacturers, like Scottsdale Construction Systems, benefit from Global Certifications with ICC-ES**

ICC Evaluation Services (ICC-ES) provides conformity assessment services to customers in 60 countries [worldwide](#). As the marketplace becomes increasingly global, many manufacturers are utilizing the one-stop-shop testing, inspection and certification provider to obtain proof of code compliance for multiple geographies. Manufacturers benefit from multiple code recognitions, expanding their market reach and speeding up approvals. An ICC-ES client, [Scottsdale Construction Systems](#) recently added recognition to the Abu Dhabi International Building Code to their [ESR-2093](#) Evaluation Report as well as recognition to the Australian Building Code, New Zealand Building Code, and Saudi Building Code to [ESR-1538](#) for cold-formed steel metal framing members via supplement reports. [Read more here.](#)



### **ICC Community Development Solutions update**

#### **Easily track applications and related tasks through the entire process using Muncity**

A webinar on Muncity's Planning & Zoning Applications Program of Work will be held at 1 p.m. Eastern on Thursday, January 11. Find out how Muncity makes it easier to:

- Intake applications and manage internal review from start to finish.
- Attach building plans and additional documents.
- Manage the escrow and bond process.
- Add and manage tasks, including comments, inspections, checklists, and more!

Muncity is the only ePermitting and Code Enforcement software from the International Code Council. To learn more, visit its [website](#).