The Zero Code can be advanced inside and outside the building energy code adoption process. Find the best option for your city or state, and note that some pathway options can be used in tandem. Some examples of pathways in action are linked below.

**PATHWAY OPTIONS**

**CITY**

**YES**

**OPTION 1:** CITY ENERGY CODE
Adopt the 2021 IECC, which includes the Zero Code Appendix.

**OPTION 2:** LEAD BY EXAMPLE
Adopt the 2021 IECC with the Zero Code Appendix for municipal buildings or buildings receiving municipal funding.

**OPTION 3:** PROVIDE INCENTIVES
Provide incentives for projects that meet the Zero Code Appendix.

**NO**

**OPTION 1:** CITY ZONING*
Update or adopt new zoning regulations to incentivize or require Zero Code-compatible new commercial buildings.

**OPTION 2:** CITY ORDINANCE*
Pass a local ordinance requiring or incentivizing Zero Code-compatible new commercial buildings.

**OPTION 3:** EXISTING BUILDINGS*
Pass a local ordinance to require or incentivize adding on- or off-site renewable energy for existing buildings.

**STATE**

**OPTION 1:** STATE CODE
Adopt the 2021 IECC with the Zero Code Appendix through state building code adoption or on top of an existing commercial building energy code.

**OPTION 2:** LEAD BY EXAMPLE**
Adopt the 2021 IECC with the Zero Code Appendix for state buildings or buildings that receive state funding.

**OPTION 3:** VOLUNTARY STRETCH CODE**
Adopt a voluntary stretch code based on the Zero Code Appendix with incentives to encourage adoption.

**DEFINITIONS:**
IECC = International Energy Conservation Code
Zero Code-compatible = efficient buildings that procure or generate enough on- or off-site renewable energy to meet their annual energy needs

* These pathways do not require a city to update building energy codes.

** These options can be used in tandem.