

THE ZERO CODE RENEWABLE ENERGY PROCUREMENT FRAMEWORK

No building's journey to reach zero-carbon emissions would be complete without renewable energy. The **Zero Code Renewable Energy Procurement Framework** provides cities and states guidance for including renewable energy as part of their strategy to achieve zero-carbon buildings. It is an essential tool in any policymaker's toolbox to meet their building decarbonization goals.

The framework works alongside energy efficiency, electrification measures and other decarbonization strategies to support the construction of **code-compliant, zero-carbon buildings that use local clean energy**. Elements of the framework were formally adopted by the International Code Council on April 8, 2020, and are included in the new 2021 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) as Appendix CC: Zero Energy Commercial Building Provisions. The framework applies to new commercial, industrial and mid- to high-rise residential buildings—the dominant building types being constructed in cities today. It can also be applied to existing buildings.

The framework is designed to be both plug-and-play and highly flexible and adaptable for any jurisdiction to use. Cities and states can adopt all or aspects of the framework through a regular code-adoption process or via other policy pathways described [here](#).



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WHY GO WITH THE RENEWABLE ENERGY PROCUREMENT FRAMEWORK?

- ✓ It's ICC-approved
- ✓ It's plug-n-play and ready today
- ✓ It's flexible and adaptable
- ✓ It works with existing codes
- ✓ It also works outside the code process
- ✓ It can be applied to new or existing buildings
- ✓ It pushes the envelope on energy efficiency
- ✓ It supports local clean energy development
- ✓ It results in zero carbon buildings

HOW DOES THE RENEWABLE ENERGY PROCUREMENT FRAMEWORK WORK?

The Renewable Energy Procurement Framework supports the development of decarbonization policies with on- or off-site renewable energy requirements for meeting a building's anticipated energy needs.

The framework provides a [standard formula](#) to calculate how much renewable energy is needed to meet a building's energy demand after satisfying the



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energy-efficiency requirements of the ASHRAE Standard 90.1-2019 / IECC 2021 or any efficiency standard of equal or greater stringency. The formula can be applied to the most commonly-constructed commercial, industrial and multifamily residential buildings—such as hospitals, hotels, office buildings and schools—in different climate zones throughout the U.S. It can also be applied to existing building decarbonization policies.

The framework **comes with [technical guidance](#) on different strategies and options for procuring renewable energy**—including power purchase agreements and renewable energy credits. It allows jurisdictions to include the option for developers to pay into a Renewable Energy Investment Fund in lieu of producing or procuring renewable energy. Cities and states can use this fund to support clean energy projects in their communities that benefit local residents.

The framework gives **preference for on-site and local renewable energy generation**, which can be a catalyst for local job creation, improve local air quality, and add more clean energy to the local grid beyond what utilities are required to produce.

The framework also **encourages developers to maximize investments**

in cost-effective energy efficiency, since the more efficient the building, the less renewable energy developers will need to generate or procure to comply with the code.

WHAT MAKES THE RENEWABLE ENERGY PROCUREMENT FRAMEWORK AND APPENDIX CC UNIQUE?

Appendix CC is the **first ICC-approved code appendix of its kind to provide a framework for procuring renewable energy to support the construction of code-compliant, zero carbon commercial buildings**. Appendix CC can also be applied to older versions of the IECC, meaning **cities and states that already adhere to energy standards for commercial construction can adopt the appendix language and framework without having to update their building codes**.

The framework is also unique in that it can be applied to existing building decarbonization policies, and cities and states are also free to use and adapt the framework for other policy levers described [here](#) to encourage building decarbonization.

In short, **the Renewable Energy Procurement Framework is one of the most flexible and adaptable tools available to cities and states today to advance building decarbonization**.



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For more information about the Zero Code Renewable Energy Procurement Framework, visit: zero-code.org or email info@architecture2030.org