

THE VALUE OF RESIDENTIAL ENERGY CODES TO IDAHOANS



Energy codes are national standards for energy efficiency and are the only codes that returns money to homeowners by paying dividends each month.

STRAIGHT UP SAVINGS

From 1975 when national energy codes were first developed through 2009, **32% energy savings were achieved!**

A 2,218 sq ft home in Coeur d'Alene built to the 2009 energy code is estimated to save \$499 per year in energy costs based on being 32% more efficient than homes built in 1974².

BENEFITS TO HOMEOWNERS

- A more durable and resilient home.
- A cleaner, quieter, and healthier home.
- If a home's envelope is not built efficiently from the start, homeowners can be stuck with costly upgrades and higher energy bills for the life of the home.

OBSERVATIONS ABOUT ENERGY STANDARDS

Energy codes have NOT been the cause of rising home costs in Ada County since 2010. Energy codes have not changed in Idaho since 2009. As of April 2018, the median price of a home in Ada County increased 8.7% over the prior year.⁴ During this same period, the incremental cost of the energy codes was \$0.

A tighter home is healthier. Air sealing is the most cost-effective way to save energy and control the flow of air. Uncontrolled air flow equates to drafts and infiltration of moisture, radon, and other contaminants, such as pests and smoke from wildfires.

Homeowner perceptions are that energy codes do NOT add extra regulation. A 2013 homeowner survey showed that more Idahoans believe they have a right to a new home built to national energy standards than believe that energy codes add more government regulation.⁵

Idaho's residential energy code is equivalent to 2009 national standards. Staying current with energy standards would result in more energy efficient homes that benefit Idahoans for the long term. Learn more about energy codes by clicking on www.idahoenergycode.com.

BENEFITS TO THE STATE OF IDAHO, INDUSTRY AND UTILITIES

- The construction industry benefits from utilization of the latest technology so everyone has a shared understanding of minimum practice.
- Current national energy standards allow greater flexibility in how builders can comply as compared to the Idaho energy code.
- The more energy a building consumes, the more power is needed, resulting in demand for more production and transmission. Energy standards reduce power demand.
- Idaho is the fastest growing state in the nation and, between July 1, 2016 and July 1, 2017, was the second fastest-growing state in terms of housing construction.³ Adopting current energy standards is an opportunity for Idaho to conserve energy over the long term since most homes last 50 to 100 years.

¹ Pacific Northwest National Laboratory for U.S. Department of Energy, Building Energy Codes Program.

² Anderson, Peter. Incremental Cost Analysis of Three Coeur d'Alene Homes for 2009 vs 2012 IECC. December 2012.

³ La Ganga, Maria L. "Valley Homes Go up at Furious Pace, but in Boise, They're Mostly Big and Costly." Idaho Statesman, May 24, 2018.

⁴ Vanstrom, Breanna. "Ada County April 2018 Market Snapshot." Boise Regional Realtors, May 11, 2018. <http://boirealtors.com/april-2018-market-report/>.

⁵ Grant, Sharon. 2013 Idaho Homeowners Energy Code Survey Report. Boise State University and Northwest Research Group. May 31, 2014. <https://dbs.idaho.gov/boards/bcboard/SpecInterest/Tab03.BPAGrantIdahoEnergyCodeSurvey05312014.pdf>.

