

Section 9.3 Policy and Program Recommendations

1. The KCC's Energy Programs Division should develop a program to promote adoption of model energy efficiency codes by local units of government.

Note: This recommendation is also listed in Section 9.2.

Description

In June and July 2007, KEC staff surveyed the 25 Kansas cities of the first class for information on their local energy efficiency (EE) codes.¹ The survey suggests that interest in EE codes is on the rise at the local level and could benefit from state-level support and education.

Building on the recommendation in the *Kansas Energy Plan 2007*—to encourage local units of government to adopt minimum EE standards for new construction—the KCC Energy Programs Division should work with an advisory group to develop an effective program to promote adoption at the local level of model EE codes for new construction in the residential, commercial, and industrial sectors. The advisory group will include homebuilders, the Kansas League of Municipalities, and representatives of local government, especially city managers and local building code officials.

An essential component of this new program would be the selection of an appropriate existing EE code to be promoted as the model for new construction in the residential, commercial, and industrial sectors. The code should be at least as stringent as IECC 2006, which was adopted by the Legislature as the statewide standard for commercial and industrial structures (see discussion of K.S.A. 66-1228 under existing policies and programs). Possible other components of the program might involve training building code officials on energy efficiency code enforcement and dissemination of the latest information on national energy efficiency building codes to city managers and building code officials.

With input from the advisory group, the KCC Energy Programs Division should identify the primary components of the new program by April 1, 2008, in order to include in their annual funding request to the Department of Energy, State Energy Program (SEP). The program would be ready for implementation by July 1, 2008.

¹ The KEC staff summary of the survey results is available on the Reports page of the KEC web site: <http://www.kec.kansas.gov/reports.htm>.

Recommended Actions

a. Responsible parties

KCC Energy Programs Division.

b. Legislative action

None required.

c. Budget requirements

No additional funding required for FY2008.

d. Implementation timeline

The program would be ready for implementation on or before July 1, 2008.

Implications of Proposal

a. Pros

- i. Promotes energy efficiency in newly constructed Kansas buildings.
- ii. Assists local officials and building managers who may lack the resources to develop EE codes on their own.
- iii. Reduces energy consumption in Kansas structures.
- iv. Reduces utility bills for Kansas consumers.
- v. Provides information and education on energy conservation and efficiency.
- vi. Fosters more communication between state and local government.

b. Cons

- i. Requires a time commitment from KCC Energy Programs Division staff to implement new program.