

# *Code Official Corner*

## **Introduction to an Effective and Purposeful Green Building Code**

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The International Code Council (ICC), in association with the American Institute of Architects (AIA) and ASTM International, has developed the International Green Construction Code. The International Green Construction Code (IgCC) provides a comprehensive set of requirements intended to reduce the negative impact of buildings on the natural environment. The IgCC and the National Green Building Standards are the base documents for a responsible jurisdictional "Green Building Program." The content and philosophy of these documents is to ensure an equal understanding of sustainability and cost-effective energy saving outcomes for present and future generations while working in tandem with other leading green rating systems.

The IgCC is consistent and coordinated with the ICC family of Codes and Standards, the "I-Codes," which offers minimum requirements and also allows for customizing beyond those minimums. This code will work as an overlay to the ICC family of codes and reflect the AIA 2030 Challenge. An IgCC program allows jurisdictions and design professionals to lead by example by adopting and using mandatory requirements, including specific requirements in each environmental category for city buildings, as well as providing an array of incentives to residents and the business community for choosing "voluntary" options, or "project electives" for each specific project.

By including the project electives, this program is more than a rating system. It was created with the intent to be administered by code officials and adopted by governmental units at any level as a tool to drive green building beyond the market segment that has been transformed by voluntary rating systems. It can be used by manufacturers, design professionals, contractors, building departments and jurisdictional leadership. Creating these partnerships leaps ahead of the curve in establishing this revolutionary movement in the building environment. Jurisdictions are now able to customize a program to meet geographical and political agendas by using the minimum standards, special jurisdiction requirements and project electives.