

## Stretch Code FAQs

### When would the stretch code take effect?

The Illinois Capital Development Board (CDB) has completed development of the Illinois stretch code elements as of September 2024, and the stretch codes will be available for adoption by January 1, 2025.

### What is a stretch code?

A stretch code is an alternative energy code that goes beyond the minimum base energy code requirements and defines a higher level of energy efficiency for new construction. Once formally adopted by a municipality, the stretch code takes the place of the state energy code and establishes the minimum energy efficiency requirements for new construction, additions, and major renovations. Stretch codes cover both commercial and residential buildings.

### What led to the Illinois stretch code and how is it different than the Illinois base code?

In 2021, the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA) was passed in Illinois, which contained a provision to create a statewide stretch energy code for the first time. CEJA requires that the Illinois stretch code improve energy efficiency in residential buildings by 34.2% and in commercial buildings by 9.1% compared to the current Illinois base energy code.

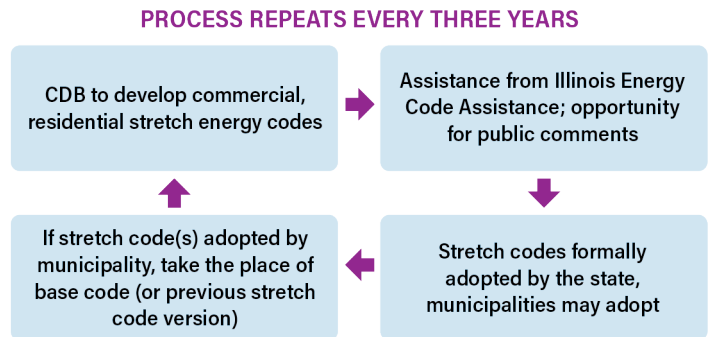
In September 2024, the Illinois Capital Development Board approved language for a stretch code to be available for adoption by municipalities. The Residential and Commercial Stretch Codes will be available for adoption on January 1, 2025.

### What are the benefits of adopting a stretch code?

- Energy and operating cost savings compared to base code
- Policy mechanism to address building energy performance and climate goals
- Improved indoor air quality from tighter envelopes, better sealed ducts, and increased ventilation
- Increased ability to maintain safe indoor conditions during energy outages due to buildings designed with tighter envelopes
- Driving market acceptance, development, and adoption of more energy efficient codes in the future

### How is a stretch code developed and adopted?

CEJA set “site energy index” performance targets to increase energy efficiency every three years. The following process describes the key steps in the creation and adoption of stretch codes every three years.



### Support Available for Municipalities

Slipstream and MEEA (Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance) support municipalities on their sustainability paths by providing technical assistance, resources, and trainings to promote the adoption and implementation of advanced building policies, such as stretch energy codes and building performance standards.

This support is provided in several different ways:

- Tailored support and technical assistance on policy options and policy development
- Public meeting presentations and material support
- Internal presentations to staff, elected officials, or other stakeholders
- Analysis of building data to estimate savings
- Training and resources (checklists, field guides, videos)

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### COMMERCIAL STRETCH CODE

#### STEP 1: Meet All Mandatory Measures

- ✓ ASHRAE 90.1 and Mandatory Requirements
- ✓ Energy Storage Ready
- ✓ Electric Vehicle Ready
- ✓ Horticultural Lighting
- ✓ Electric Ready
- ✓ Electric Vehicle Accessibility

#### STEP 2: Choose ONE Compliance Path

##### Compliance Path Options

#### 2024 Commercial IECC Path

**Prescriptive Path:** 2024 IECC commercial provisions; includes backstop that sets glazing limit and envelope requirements

**Simulated Total Building Performance Path:** 2024 IECC commercial provisions; allows trade-off of envelope components with better HVAC

#### Commercial Zero Energy Path

**Appendix CC:** on-site renewables or RECs required by building type to cover amount of energy consumption; more stringent than 2021 IECC and CEJA targets

#### ASHRAE Path

**ASHRAE 90.1-2022:** strengthened to meet CEJA targets

#### Passive House Path

**Certify to PHIUS or PHI;** more stringent than 2021 IECC and CEJA targets

### RESIDENTIAL STRETCH CODE

#### STEP 1: Meet All Mandatory Measures

- ✓ Electric Ready
- ✓ EV Ready or EV Charger Installed
- ✓ Solar Ready
- ✓ Demand Response Capable Thermostats and Water Heaters

#### STEP 2: Choose ONE Compliance Path

##### Compliance Path Options

#### Prescriptive Path

Strengthened to meet CEJA targets; more stringent than 2021 IECC

#### Simulated Total Building Performance (Total UA) Path

Revised to be based on Site Energy metric instead of utility cost to align with CEJA targets; more stringent than 2021 IECC

#### Energy Rating Index (ERI) Path

Aligned ERI ventilation calculation and ERI metric with CEJA target; more stringent than 2021 IECC

#### Passive House Path

Certify to PHIUS or PHI; more stringent than 2021 IECC and CEJA targets

#### Residential Zero Energy Path

Meet requirements of Appendix RC; ERI values of 46 for no on-site power, requires adding on-site power to meet ERI of 0. Minimum backstop of R406. More stringent than 2021 IECC and CEJA targets