

# ICC Government Relations' Monthly Update



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## **Download the 2023 ICC Annual Conference app and join your colleagues in St. Louis October 8-11**

The International Code Council's 2023 Annual Conference & Expo is finally upon us! Taking place October 8-11, this year's conference will feature educational sessions, opportunities to network, and the chance to learn more about the latest news and trends in the building safety industry. The 2023 ICC Conference App provides in-depth information on the 2023 Annual Conference, including the full conference schedule, speakers, session handouts, maps, directory and event information. [Download your app here](#). For [key events](#) and [attractions](#) in St. Louis, [read more here](#).

## **Government Relations Forum on Monday, October 9, to address hot topics in building safety**

Scheduled for 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. October 9 during the 2023 Annual Conference in St. Louis after the Annual Business Meeting, this Insight Session will feature quick-hit discussions on emerging issues:

- The growing prevalence of lithium-ion batteries and associated safety considerations.
- Tackling environmental risks facing aging infrastructure.
- The sharp uptick in prefabricated construction and best practices for modular construction programs.

Discussions will also be held on rebutting legislative efforts to limit the voice of code professionals in building code updates along with successful efforts to strengthen codes statewide. With billions in federal funding available from FEMA, DOE, and HUD to support the adoption and implementation of energy efficient and resilient building codes, this session will conclude with small group breakout sessions with agency representatives to discuss available resources and how best to access them. Additional information and speaker/topic timing is [available here](#).

## **Special training October 10 prepares code officials to master the federal grant application process**

Building on the grants discussions at the Government Relations Forum a day prior, this comprehensive training is being led by Energy and Resilience Project Manager Stella Carr will take place at 3:15 p.m. on Tuesday, October 10. Participants will gain in-depth knowledge and skills concerning federal grants.

Topics to be covered include:

- Understanding the federal grant process.
- Navigating the grant application process.
- Complying with regulations and requirements.
- Strengthening grant proposals and budgets.

By empowering code professionals to navigate the grant life cycle with confidence, this training contributes to energy efficiency, resilience, and sustainability across the nation. [Read more here](#).

## **GOT DCP? We need your feedback! Please share your experiences of using Digital Codes Premium**

Construction building code stakeholders are utilizing Digital Codes Premium's online resources extensively. [Please share your experience and insight with us here](#). A \$100 Amazon gift card will be awarded to five randomly selected participants who complete the survey. If you have questions or suggestions, email Philip Anthony Graczyk, [panthony@iccsafe.org](mailto:panthony@iccsafe.org). Not a DCP subscriber yet? Start your free [14-day trial](#) today.

## **Addressing water scarcity requires scientifically supported water conservation solutions**

Due to the compounding effects of water scarcity across the world, communities have been searching for solutions that have been scientifically validated. In an [article published by the Arizona Daily Star](#), **Esber Andiroglu**, Ph.D., PE, LEED AP, and Associate Professor at the University of Miami, shared how water scarcity is impacting many southwestern U.S. cities and how building codes and standards can play a pivotal role in helping to address the water crisis. The [International Green Construction Code®](#) and the [National Green Building Standard](#), along with specific standards like the [CSA B805/ICC](#)

[805 – Rainwater Harvesting Standard](#) and [RESNET/ICC 850 – Water Use Performance of One- and Two-Family Dwellings Standard](#), can be implemented to promote water conservation measures such as fixture efficiency, reuse and site management. Understanding the importance of implementing water scarcity solutions, the University of Miami (UM) recently [published a refutation of a report commissioned by the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials \(IAPMO\)](#) that made inaccurate claims concerning pipe sizing and water conservation. Dr. Andiroglu's analysis found fundamental flaws in the study's central premise and that the I-Codes generate water saving in comparison to the study's alternatives. [Read more here.](#)

### **DOE targets \$400 million to help jurisdictions adopt and implement energy efficient codes**

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) recently [announced](#) \$400 million in formula funding to support energy code adoption and implementation for states, the District of Columbia and U.S. territories under the Inflation Reduction Act. The formula structure means that states are each allocated a bucket of funding (totaling between \$2.4M to \$17.9M) that is apportioned into four sub-buckets:

1. 2021 IECC-Residential (IECC-R) adoption/full compliance
2. ASHRAE 90.1-2019 adoption/full compliance
3. IECC-R zero energy appendix adoption/full compliance, and
4. IECC-Commercial (IECC-C) zero energy appendix adoption/full compliance.

Within those categories there are further funding caps. DOE is expected to issue a determination regarding the 2024 IECC's efficiency levels in 2024; once that is released, adoption of that code can also qualify for this funding. For full guidance on the grant program please read the [Guidance here](#). States must submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) to DOE to be eligible for the funding **by November 21**. Final applications are accepted on a rolling basis **through September 30, 2025**. You **MUST** submit a LOI in order to be eligible through the 2025 deadline ([DOE has provided a sample LOI here](#)). States are encouraged to submit a LOI even if plans to update energy codes are uncertain so as not to preclude future access to the available funding. DOE is expected to reapportion formula funding based on LOIs received and establish a separate formula funding round for localities in states that did not submit a LOI. The Energy Department said [in a press release](#) announcing the funding that homes built using modern energy codes are 40 percent more efficient than homes built 15 years ago. You can see this state-by-state [list showing savings generated by adoption](#) of current energy codes. If you have questions about federal grants and application efforts, click the "[Schedule a Consultation](#)" button below to book a one-on-one virtual meeting with the Code Council's Energy and Resilience Project Manager Stella Carr.

### **Two recent news stories point to inadequate protections in homes exposing inhabitants to dangers**

Two recent news articles point to life safety threats involving older and anticipated increases in dangerous heat. [The first, from KCUR \(Kansas City Public Radio, reports that](#) "Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska are part of an emerging 'extreme heat belt' that could deliver more scorching days within 30 years." The article reports on research from technology nonprofit First Street Foundation which released its ["extreme heat belt" map](#). It says that within about 30 years, the Midwest and parts of the South will face heat indices (or "feels like" temperatures) of 125 degrees or higher with greater frequency. [The second news article, published by Axios Des Moines](#), focuses on Iowa's dilemma between rising heat indices and the state's outdated energy conservation code. "That stretch of days [we saw in August](#) is kind of what it's going to look like in the middle to late 21st century if we look at the global climate model projections," Iowa's state climatologist Justin Glisan told Iowa Public Radio. "The infrastructure that we have now is not built for where we are, and it's definitely not built for where we're going."

### **Department of Energy's 2023-2024 Energy Code Webinar Series provides insights on enforcement**

Code professionals are encouraged to join the DOE Building Energy Codes Program for the [2023-2024 Energy Code Webinar Series](#). This monthly webinar series, regularly scheduled for the third Thursday of every month at 1 pm ET, will provide an opportunity to learn, discuss and engage on timely and important energy code topics throughout the year. Each monthly webinar will be presented across a range of engaging formats, from topic-based lectures to expert panels and interactive discussions. The current lineup of topics over the next few months include:

1. Strategies to Expand the Energy Codes Workforce Equitably | October 19th ([Register](#))

2. What You Need to Know about the New Energy Standard for Commercial Buildings: ASHRAE Standard 90.1-2022 | November 16th ([Register](#))
3. Best Practices for Understanding and Improving Compliance: Field Studies, Circuit Riders, and More | January 18th ([Register](#))
4. Addressing Existing Buildings: Building Performance Standards and Implementation Support Tools | February 15th ([Register](#))
5. Energy Code Enforcement Challenges and Opportunities in Rural Communities | March 21st ([Register](#))

You can register for each webinar and access presentation slides by clicking [here](#).

### **St. Paul's Angie Wiese presented the 2023 Excellence in Fire & Life Safety Award in Kansas City**

During the [International Association of Fire Chiefs \(IAFC\) Fire-Rescue International Conference](#) in Kansas City, Mo., the International Code Council, in partnership with the [IAFC Fire & Life Safety Section \(FLSS\)](#), presented the 2023 Excellence in Fire & Life Safety Award to Angie Wiese, Director of the Department of Safety and Inspections for the City of St. Paul, Minn. The Excellence in Fire & Life Safety Award honors individuals who have dedicated themselves to saving lives and property through their work on code development, fire prevention practices and fire service leadership. [Read more here](#).

### **Ronny J. Coleman, State Fire Marshal instrumental in California's I-Codes adoption, passes away**

The International Code Council mourns the passing of former California State Fire Marshal, Ronny J. Coleman. Chief Coleman was a staunch advocate for the adoption and enforcement of building and fire safety codes in California and throughout the world. One of Chief Coleman's many accomplishments during his career of over 50 years was his instrumental role in the adoption of the International Codes (I-Codes®) as the basis for California's building and fire safety codes. [Read more here](#).

### **Insightful webinar on how code officials are using FEMA's BRIC grant program is now available online**

The Code Council hosted a webinar last month about the Federal Emergency Management Administration's (FEMA) Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant program. If you were not able to attend the webinar, [click here to view the recording](#) (password: KJ3XZSma). The slides from the presentation can be downloaded, [here](#). Panelists on the webinar included Angie Wiese from City of St. Paul, Minn., Paul Demers from the State of Maine and Alex Olszowy III from Lexington, Ky. who spoke about their experience with BRIC awards. Review [this information](#) to learn more about [BRIC](#) and help you and your colleagues to be prepared for the upcoming round of applications.

### **ICC CEO Dominic Sims illustrates how ICC's digital evolution produces tools for changing demands**

Staying in front of technology trends is why the Code Council has crossed the digital divide to keep up with demands by stake holders in the built environment, says Dominic Sims, CEO, in a recent Contractor magazine article. "Our digital solutions roadmap not only offers new, accessible ways of providing building safety content but also digitizing codes themselves. We're able to offer online permitting, interactive training and professional development opportunities, credentialing and digital codes and standards," Sims said "Adopting digital solutions is no longer an option but is rather a necessity for contractors and other industry experts looking to thrive in today's landscape." [Read more here](#).

### **Jordana Rubel named the General Counsel of the International Code Council**

The Code Council recently announced Jordana Rubel joined its staff as General Counsel. Rubel will oversee the organization's legal matters with a particular emphasis on preserving and protecting its intellectual property rights. Joining the Code Council from the United States Copyright Office where she served as Assistant General Counsel, Rubel has extensive experience in copyright litigation and trademark cases. Rubel was an associate with several D.C.-area law firms where she litigated copyright and trademark cases in federal court. Rubel holds a Juris Doctor (J.D.) from Emory University School of Law, as well as degrees from both Harvard University and Haverford College. [Read more here](#).

### **Scott Adams to apply his experience as ICC Fire Protection Engineer for Codes and Standards**

Long a familiar face at the Code Council and the national fire service scene, Utah's Scott Adams was recently hired to serve as the Fire Protection Engineer for Codes and Standards for the International

Code Council. Based in Millcreek, Utah, Adams is responsible for the development of the Performance Based Code and will work with Beth Tubbs, ICC Chief Fire Protection Engineer. Adams had retired in recent years as Deputy Fire Chief at Park City, Utah, and served many years on the Western Regional Code Development Committee and on the ICC Fire Service Membership Council, where he served as Chair of its Governing Committee. His email address is [SAdams@ICCsafes.org](mailto:SAdams@ICCsafes.org).

### **Special online training opportunity October 25 focuses on safe room design and construction**

Code Council members are encouraged to attend the webinar “Kentucky Residential and Community Safe Room Training for Registered Design Professionals.” It will be held online 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Eastern on October 25. To register, please visit <https://forms.microsoft.com/r/F3iVngKkNn>. This free virtual 3-hour Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) training funded by the Kentucky Disaster Declaration DR-4630-KY, is targeted towards registered design professionals. It will provide an overview of Part B of the recently updated FEMA P-361, *Safe Rooms for Tornadoes and Hurricanes: Guidance for Community and Residential Safe Rooms*, Fourth Edition (2021). FEMA P-361 presents updated and refined criteria for how to design and construct a safe room that provides near-absolute protection from wind and wind-borne debris for occupants. FEMA’s latest changes reference the 2020 update to the consensus standard from the International Code Council® (ICC®) and the National Storm Shelter Association (NSSA®), the ICC/NSSA Standard for the Design and Construction of Storm Shelters (ICC 500). Relevant training materials are:

- [FEMA P-361: Safe Rooms for Tornadoes and Hurricanes: Guidance for Community and Residential Safe Rooms](#)
- [2021 Kentucky Tornadoes Recovery Advisory 1: Essential Facilities Located in Tornado-Prone Regions: Recommendations for Facility Owners](#)
- [2021 Kentucky Tornadoes Recovery Advisory 2: Reconstructing a Non-Residential Building After a Tornado](#)
- [Improving Windstorm and Tornado Resilience: Recommendations for One- and Two-Family Residential Structures](#)
- [Design Guide for New Tornado Load Requirements in ASCE 7-22](#)

### **Free subscription of the Code Council’s Building Safety Journal Weekly keeps you in the loop**

The Building Safety Journal (BSJ) Weekly is a weekly newsletter from the International Code Council that covers relevant current trends and hot topics within the building safety industry. [Click here to subscribe.](#)

### ***GOT PULSE?* Episode 53 of podcast series takes a fun look at how building codes are developed**

This episode follows a summarized and fun journey of how a building code is developed and advocated in the United States, as told by the International Code Council’s Technical Services engineers and Government Relations representatives. We also highlight a code official's perspective on his jurisdiction's code adoption process and his experience with participating in the code development process. This episode is sponsored by the [American Gas Association](#). **Guests on the show:**

- Beth Tubbs, Chief Fire Protection Engineer, International Code Council
- Samhar Hoz, Associate Staff Engineer, International Code Council
- Truong Hyunh, General Superintendent of Development Services, Building and Safety Bureau, City of Long Beach, California
- Susan Dowty, Government Relations Regional Manager, International Code Council (Retired)
- Gabe Maser, Senior Vice President of ICC Government Relations and National Strategy



### **ICC Plumbing, Mechanical and Fuel Gas updates**

#### **Ohio boosts building resilience by adopting International Plumbing, Building and Mechanical Codes**

The state of Ohio has adopted four of the 2021 International Codes® (I-Codes®), including the 2021 editions of the International Building Code® (IBC), International Mechanical Code® (IMC), International Plumbing Code® (IPC) and International Existing Building Code® (IEBC). This decision comes after careful consideration by the Ohio Board of Building Standards and is a testament to the state’s commitment to upholding the highest standards in building construction and maintenance. This update is a direct result



of Governor DeWine's and Lt Governor Husted's initiative to reform the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) and aims to maintain the safety of current buildings and ensure the safety, affordability and sustainability of new ones. [Read more here.](#)

#### **New Code Notes article explores issues involving the installation of Air Admittance Valves**

From Code Notes, the air admittance valve (AAV) is a device designed to allow air to enter the drainage system to balance the pressure and prevent siphonage of the water trap when negative pressure develops in the system. In this way, it is used on individual vents, branch vents and circuit vents in lieu of terminating vents to the exterior of the structure. Stack vents and vent stacks are permitted to terminate to a stack-type AAV. The exception is for stack vents or vent stacks that serve drainage stacks exceeding six branch intervals. Installation of AAVs must conform to the requirements of section 918 of the International Plumbing Code®, AAVs, or section P3113 of the International Residential Code®, Vent Pipe Sizing, and the manufacturer's instruction. Where differences occur between the provisions of the code and manufacturers' instructions, the most restrictive provisions must apply. [Read more here.](#)

#### **Notice posted on the timeline that the rest of the I-Codes will follow publications of the 2024 IPC/IMC**

With news of the [2024 International Plumbing Code and 2024 International Mechanical Code](#) becoming available, a timeline was posted for when the other 2024 I-Codes will be in circulation. "The ICCPC and IBC will be released on or before mid-October 2023. The 2024 IFC will be released on or before the end of November. The IFGC, IRC, IECC and IgCC will be released in the first quarter of 2024."

#### **Tom Roberts recently appointed as new Director of Plumbing Mechanical and Fuel Gas (PMG) Global**

The International Code Council recently appointed Tom Roberts as the new Director of Plumbing Mechanical and Fuel Gas (PMG) Global. In this new position, Roberts will focus on identifying opportunities pertaining to emerging technologies, plumbing designs and installation practices outside of North America. Roberts is a highly respected technical expert in the international building safety community with over a decade of experience in the development of policy, codes and standards. Roberts comes to the International Code Council from the [Australian Building Codes Board](#), the Australian Government body responsible for the [National Construction Code in Australia](#) as well as the WaterMark® and CodeMark® product certification schemes used in Oceania. [Read more here.](#)



#### **ICC Evaluation Services updates**

##### **ICC-ES celebrates 90 years of fostering innovation with special discounts until December 31**

[ICC-ES](#) is a proud industry leader in performing technical evaluations of building products, materials and systems for code compliance. For over 90 years, ICC-ES has worked with building officials and manufacturers to safely bring innovative building products to market. ICC-ES has continually evolved over the decades to help manufacturers meet everchanging market demands while maintaining code compliance, for speed-to-market approval. [ICC-ES is now offering 25 percent off](#) the basic fee for most new and revision applications until December 31. [This brief video explains ICC-ES's 90-year evolution.](#)

##### **Nill Building Solutions' NB1C Anchor Flange gets its report from ICC Evaluation Services**

[ICC-ES has evaluated](#) Nill Building Solutions' [NB1C Anchor Flange](#) used to support metal base shoes in railing systems (guards and handrails) and other structural applications for compliance to the International Building Code, International Residential Code and the City of Los Angeles codes (LABC, LARC). [Nill Building Solutions](#) manufactures and supplies their patented line of waterproofing attachment anchors, mounts, and fastener products for the entire building envelope.