



ICC NEWS RELEASE

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ANSI Approves Next Generation of the ICC 700 National Green Building Standard

Notable Changes Impact Energy Requirements and Scoring of Remodeling Projects

The [National Association of Home Builders](#) (NAHB) and the [International Code Council](#) (ICC) applaud the recent approval of the [2012 ICC 700 National Green Building Standard](#).

In 2007, NAHB and the ICC partnered to establish a nationally-recognizable standard definition of green building. The resulting ICC 700 National Green Building Standard is the first and only residential green building rating system to undergo the full consensus process and receive approval from the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). This is the first time the standard has undergone Consensus Committee review and update since it was published in 2009.

“The introduction of the 2012 National Green Building Standard is a huge deal for our industry,” said NAHB Chairman Barry Rutenberg, a home builder from Gainesville, Fla. “Not only does the updated version raise the bar on energy efficiency requirements, but it also completely revolutionizes how renovations and remodeling projects are treated under the standard. The 2012 updates make the standard easier to understand and implement, and we expect that this will certainly help to build upon the momentum we are already seeing in green building across the residential building industry.”

To date, the standard has been widely implemented throughout the industry. The NAHB Research Center, which serves as the secretariat of the standard as it

progresses through ANSI, has certified the compliance of thousands of dwelling units and developed lots to the ICC 700. Dozens of regional and local green initiatives refer to the standard within their program criteria and the [International Green Construction Code](#) (IgCC) requires compliance with the ICC 700 if a jurisdiction chooses to regulate residential buildings four stories or less in height.

“ANSI’s approval of the 2012 ICC 700 National Green Building Standard reinforces the quality and transparency of the process used to develop this important standard for constructing green residential buildings across America,” said International Code Council Board President Ronald Piester and CEO Dominic Sims in a joint statement. “We are proud to develop the codes and standards that ICC and NAHB Members use to guide the construction of safe, sustainable and affordable homes, and provide an opportunity for ICC Members to play a vital role in this important undertaking.”

The new version of the standard includes several important changes including:

- Energy Code Update: While the original ICC 700 used the 2006 version of the [International Energy Conservation Code](#) (IECC) as a basis, the new version will use the 2009 IECC. The requirements of the 2009 IECC are estimated to result in energy efficient performance that is about 15 percent higher than the previous 2006 code.
- Restructured Scoring for Remodeling: The new version completely revamped the scoring for renovations and remodeling projects. The revised standard includes two entirely new chapters devoted to existing building projects. The first provides criteria for entire buildings and includes requirements for improved energy and water efficiency that increases as higher levels of compliance are sought. The second provides a green protocol for the most common renovation and addition projects that focus on functional areas of a home such as a kitchen, bathroom, basement, or addition under 400 square feet.
- Incentives for Development and Lot Design: The 2012 ICC 700 includes the addition of a new scoring opportunity for those choosing the build lots in green communities. In the new version, six points can be earned in the Lot Design, Preparation and Development chapter for choosing lots in developments that have been certified to ICC 700 or an equivalent program. In the previous version of the standard no such incentives were provided.

On Wednesday, Jan. 23, “Green Day” at the International Builders’ Show in Las Vegas, NAHB and the ICC will release additional information on what changes the 2012 standard entails. Attendees of the show can hear the details during a press conference at 9:30 a.m. that day.

To order the standard from ICC, please visit www.iccsafe.org/700_2012_NR, or call 800-786-4452.

The [International Code Council](http://www.iccsafe.org) is a member-focused association dedicated to helping the building safety community and construction industry provide safe and sustainable construction through the development of codes and standards used in the design, build and compliance process. Most U.S. communities and many global markets [choose the International Codes](http://www.iccsafe.org).

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