Scope of the 2012 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC)

The *International Energy Conservation Code* (IECC) intent statement is curiously different than those of the other codes and does not speak specifically to life safety and property protection (Figure 1-13). In fact, the statement points out that the IECC is not intended to reduce any safety, health, or environmental requirements in other applicable codes or ordinances.

The intent of the IECC is to "regulate the design and construction of buildings for the effective use and conservation of energy over the useful life of each building." Further, the code is intended to provide flexibility to permit the use of innovative approaches and techniques to achieve this objective.

It is this divergence from life safety and property protection that makes the energy code unique in the family of International Codes. Many involved in the design, construction, and inspection of buildings recognize that now is the time to begin to understand the energy code. The 2012 IECC meets the need for a design and construction document in common code format to address energy-efficient building enclosures and mechanical, lighting, and power systems.

The IECC, as well as *Building Code Basics: Energy—Based on 2012 International Energy Conservation Code,* acknowledges distinct differences in requirements for commercial and residential buildings. Commercial and residential requirements are organized in separate provisions of the 2012 IECC. The requirements for permits and inspections, climate zones, and code administration are almost the same for commercial and residential construction, but insulation and mechanical requirements greatly differ. Even the definitions used to establish the common vocabulary for commercial and residential energy requirements vary. The commercial provisions are all in six sections of IECC Section C4 and are included in Part III of this book. IECC Section R4 contains the residential provisions. These requirements are addressed in Part V of this book.

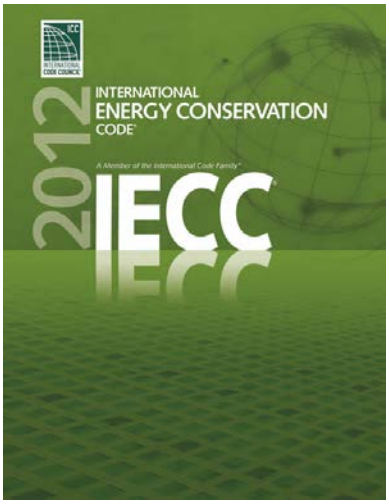

Figure 1-13 International Energy Conservation Code, 2012 Edition