

# ICC has a strong presence in annual NIBS list of federal priorities

The National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS) recently submitted policy recommendations to the President and Congress, many of which the International Code Council hold as part of its core mission.

Resiliency, green construction, continuing education and active training and recruitment of a new generation of code officials are ICC values prominently featured in NIBS' 2015 report, "Moving Forward: Findings and Recommendations from the Consultative Council."

NIBS annually brings together key stakeholders from across the building industry such as the ICC to examine the challenges and opportunities before both the industry and the nation. Its Council then compiles the most critical issues, along with strategies to address them, into a report to help the industry and policymakers better deliver the high-performance buildings and communities.

Some of the ICC's handiwork covered in the new report include:

- Resilience and green-building rating systems
- Addressing drought and water use concerns
- Code development, adoption and enforcement
- Maintaining a strong building workforce

**Resilience:** ICC long has supported stronger codes, materials and design to help buildings — and communities — rebound faster following a disaster. The Federal Emergency Management Agency has required communities rebuilding after disasters to use *I-Codes* before receiving federal rebuilding fund.

**Green construction:** The ICC's International Green Construction Code (IgCC) is the first model code to include sustainability measures for the entire construction project and its site — from design through construction, certificate of occupancy and beyond. The new code aims to make buildings more efficient, reduce waste, and have a positive impact on health, safety and community welfare.

**Drought and water use concerns:** To address one of the worst droughts in state history, officials in California adopted strict lawn-reduction rules in 2015, based in part on irrigation standards developed by the ICC.

ICC's Government Relations team has been accomplishing another of the report's objectives: advocating at all levels of government for effective land use policies, modern building codes and smarter investment in the construction and maintenance of our nation's buildings and infrastructure.

And the Code Council's High School Technical Training Program is working with a growing number of communities throughout the country to, as the report suggests, "expand the availability of career and

technical education programs, both at the high school and post-secondary education levels.” Visit [iccsafe.org](http://iccsafe.org) for more information and a toolkit.

ICC also knows building safety education is important for everyone in the community, not just building officials and others in the business. NIBS’ report notes “it is important to continue to educate legislators, decision makers, home buyers and the public in general about how building codes and construction design affects each one of us every day in many ways.”

That’s why the ICC sponsors its annual Building Safety Month each May. This year’s theme is “Building Codes: Driving Growth through Innovation, Resilience and Safety.”

Each week of Building Safety Month – from May 2 through May 29 -- spotlights a specific area of building safety: Building Solutions for All Ages; The Science Behind the Codes; Learn from the Past, Build for Tomorrow; and Building Codes: A Smart Investment.

Download the 2015 Consultative Council Report at [http://www.nibs.org/resource/resmgr/CC/2015\\_MOVING\\_FORWARD.pdf](http://www.nibs.org/resource/resmgr/CC/2015_MOVING_FORWARD.pdf).