Why does the Energy Commission regulate buildings?

• Energy Efficiency is critical to meeting California’s energy and Greenhouse Gas goals, helping to meet increasing energy demands without increasing fossil fuel consumption (and associated emissions and water use).

• The Energy Commission is directed both by executive policy, as well as the Governor’s goal of achieving zero net energy buildings by 2020 and 2030.
Legislative Mandate

Public Resources Code Section 25402:
“The commission shall, after one or more public hearings, do all of the following, in order to reduce the wasteful, uneconomic, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy, including the energy associated with the use of water:
…Prescribe, by regulation, lighting, insulation, climate control system, and other building design and construction standards…”
Legislative Policies

- Global Warming Solutions Act (AB 32, 2006)
- Efficiency in Existing Buildings (AB 758, 2009)
Executive Goals and Policy Drivers

- Double the Rate of Energy Efficiency in Existing Buildings by 2030
- 50% of utility-generated electricity from renewable sources by 2030 (Renewable Portfolio Standard)
- Zero Net Energy Buildings: Newly Constructed Residential by 2020, Nonresidential by 2030
- Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions to 40% below 1990 levels by 2030
2013 Total Consumption in CA
276k GWh

- Residential, 32.7%
- Commercial, 36.6%
- Industrial/Mining, 17.2%
- Agriculture, 7.4%
- TCU, 5.6%
- Street Lighting, 0.5%
Efficiency benefits the occupant

- Health and Comfort: Indoor air quality and thermal comfort.
- Safety: Heat waves pose serious risks if electricity becomes unavailable or when occupants feel they cannot afford to run their AC.
- Consumer Protection: Consumers can be taken advantage of with missing, poorly installed, or underperforming insulation or equipment.
- Housing Security: Energy bills are contributors to the rate of home foreclosures.
- Climate Change Mitigation: Improves resiliency in California’s building stock while mitigating GHG emissions.
Standards Development Obligations

- Standards must be technically feasible.
- Standards “shall be cost-effective when taken in their entirety and when amortized over the economic life of the structure.”
  - Energy costs are calculated using Time-Dependent Valuation of Energy (TDV Energy)
- Standards must include performance-based and prescriptive compliance paths.
- *To the extent possible*, standards should be technology neutral.
How Standards are Updated

- The energy efficiency requirements of Title 24, Part 6, follow the same three-year cycle as the rest of the Building Code. The code cycle can be divided into four phases:

  Proposals → Pre-Rulemaking → Rulemaking → Post-Adoption

- Each phase follows a roughly similar pattern:

  Publish draft documents → Open a public comment period →

  Hold a workshop or hearing → Revise and finalize documents

- Comments can be made at any or all of these phases. Let us know how best to include you.
How You Can Participate

• The participation of local jurisdictions is critical to ensuring consistent, enforceable standards. Participation can be as simple as submitting a letter or e-mail with your comments as an early proposal or during a public comment period.

• Utility companies organize and conduct early stakeholder meetings during the proposal phase. These are the best forums for early discussion of proposed measures, and we highly recommend participating.

• The Energy Commission holds staff workshops and Commissioner hearings throughout the standards development process which can be attended remotely via the internet or by phone.
Current Code Cycle

- The 2019 cycle began in January with work on updating the Energy Commission’s calculation of TDV.
- Stakeholders are currently developing regulatory change proposals, and are likely to submit by the end of this year.
- Workshops on possible measures will begin mid next year, with a pre-rulemaking draft proposal by the end of 2017.
- Formal rulemaking begins at the start of 2018.
- To stay informed, add your e-mail to the Building Standards E-mail List Server (at [http://www.energy.ca.gov/listservers/](http://www.energy.ca.gov/listservers/)). Official standards-related notices and updates, with instructions for participating, are sent out to this list.
Implementation and Compliance

- The Energy Commission implement several programs to assist with the compliance processes:
  - Home Energy Rating System (HERS)
  - Acceptance Test Technician Certification Program (ATTTCP)
  - Outreach and Education
Compliance Resources

- Standards Hotline (800/772-3300)
- Blueprint Bi-monthly Newsletter
- Residential & Nonresidential Compliance Manuals
- On-site Training
Contacts

• Peter Strait, Standards Development  
  916/654-2817, Peter.Strait@energy.ca.gov

• Heriberto Rosales, Standards Implementation  
  916/653-1646, Heriberto.Rosales@energy.ca.gov