

## Washington State Energy Code

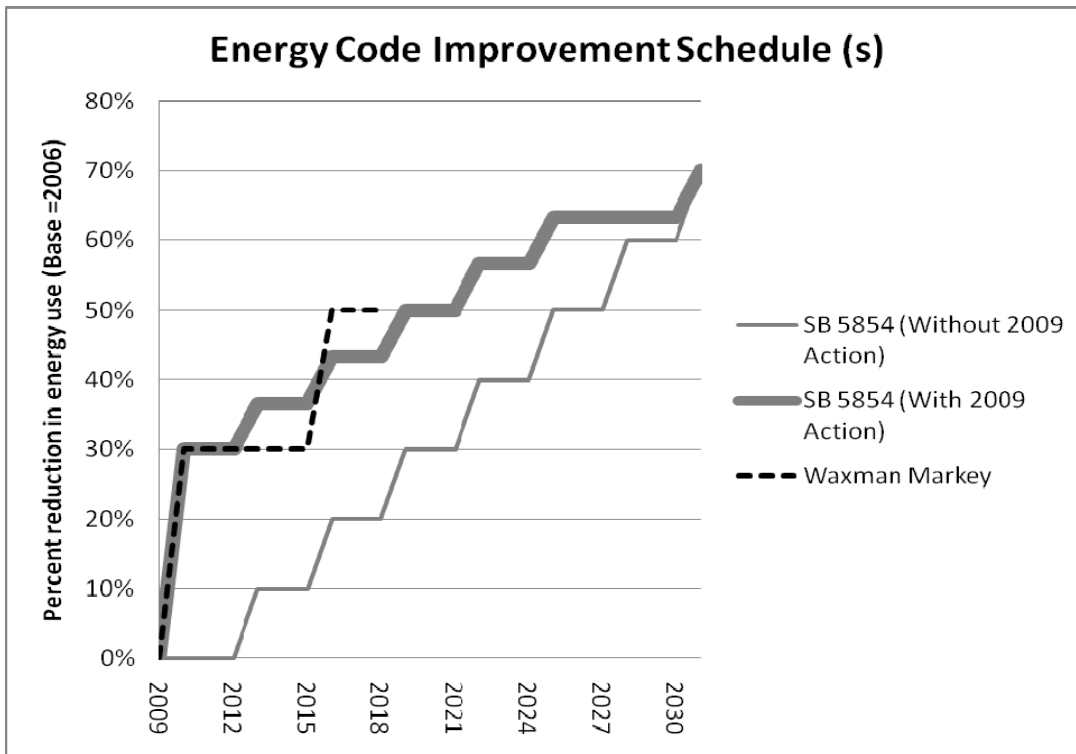
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- Setting Goals:
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### Setting Goals

Washington State set goals this year for the improvement of energy codes. This includes goals set by the Climate Action Team and through legislation included in SB 5854. These goals are not all together home grown. They follow goals set by “Architecture 2030”, U.S. Department of Energy, American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-conditioning Engineers, the house (Waxman Markey) climate bill and many others. In a nut shell the goal is to, ***reduce energy consumption in buildings by 30% during the current code development cycle***

- *Thirty percent is a very reasonable target for single family homes*
- *For commercial buildings, this is an aggressive target*



## **Current Events: 2009 Energy Code Adoption**

Codes are adopted statewide by the State Building Code Council (SBCC) . The council has 12 voting members appointed by the Governor. This includes building industry professionals, elected local government, labor, and general public. There are 4 non-voting ex-officio members from the legislature. A R and D from each house.

Code adoption occurs on a three year cycle. 2009 is a code adoption year for implementation in July 2010.

1. By March 1, proposed amendments to codes must be submitted to the SBCC. Anyone may propose a code change.
2. March – June. The SBCC asks the Technical Advisory Groups to review the proposed changes to the codes. By the end of June the TAGs provide the SBCC with a recommendation for each code proposal.
3. In June or early July, the SBCC will decide what they move into rulemaking. Two public hearings are held
4. Council votes on adoption of new code language. This must occur before December 1 to go into effect July 1, the following year. This allows the new code to sit through a session of the legislature.
5. New code language is implemented July 1 2010.

Residential: A set of proposals was submitted to the SBCC by the Department of Commerce, WSU Energy Program and other that would achieve 30% savings compared to the 2006 WSEC. Many compromises were made in the Technical Advisory Group. But the primary measures held up. If the recommendation from the Technical Advisory Group holds up, savings 18-26 percent will be achieved for single family homes. Most homes will be in the 25% range.

Commercial: Commercial code changes were submitted by the City of Seattle, Lighting Design Lab, Department of Commerce, and a number of engineering firms. The proposals were not particularly well integrated. The end result coming out of the Technical Advisory Committee will result in about a 13% improvement. More for some sectors than other.

*For this code cycle, it's all over but the voting.*

*There may be a delay because of an administrative challenge. The Joint Administrative Rules Committee, a legislative oversight committee, has asked for additional economic analysis. This could delay adoption by one year. But I don't think the council will abandon the code changes because of this challenge.*

*There is well organized opposition to the energy code upgrade. This is led by the building industry. Other parties include the International Code Council (as a method to get the IECC adopted), and to a less extent, AIA or ASHRAE, ( a organizations with many conflicting voices).*

## **Energy Code Planning (S2SB 5854) – 2010**

This bill includes:

Section 7 - A study and recommendation for home energy audit and ratings (Due Dec. 2009)

Section 6 - Benchmarking for commercial structures (Energy Star)

Public Building

Commercial Buildings for sale or lease

Section 3 – Strategic plan for advancement of building standards (Due Dec. 2010 – every 3 years)

- Recommendation for the next code upgrade
- Recommendations for aspirational codes (utility programs?)
- Recommendation for transition to a performance based code
- Performance measurement methods
- Code enforcement training
- Research and Development Plan
- Address utility barriers to serving low energy buildings
- Address funding. Gov, utility etc.
- Etc.

This activity will begin early in 2010.

A workgroup will be formed to inform the study.

Commerce has funding to run this process, but will be seeking content support from outside the department.

### **A few action items:**

#### **Code Adoption**

- Help find individuals that will serve on the SBCC
- Structure conservation programs with the intent that the measures will be introduced into code in 3-6 years.
- Draft proposals for code changes – support these proposals with detailed analysis and through the rulemaking process

#### **Code Implementation:**

Advocate for good code enforcement at the local level

- Top down – Let the city council know it's important
- Bottom up – Support education efforts for code enforcement staff
- Direct Assistance – Provide field assistance to local enforcement staff for unusually complex projects

Can we address the building department funding or staff time issues?