



Texas Building Energy Code

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(Texas Health & Safety Code Chap. 388)

Legislative finding:

Effective building energy codes are essential to:

1. Reduce air pollution affecting health of Texas residents
2. Lower electric peak demand
3. Assure reliability of the electrical grid
4. Controlling energy costs for residents and businesses.



Energy Code Legislation

1. [H.B. 1736](#) efficiency chapter of the 2015 IRC for single-family residential construction; effective 09/01/2016
2. [TAC 19.53](#) IECC-2015 for commercial construction; effective 11/01/2016
3. [TAC 19.32](#) ASHRAE 90.1-2013 Standard or IECC-2015 for state funded new construction; effective 06/01/2016
4. [TAC 19.32](#) IECC-2015 for state funded low-rise residential buildings



What's the role of Municipalities to comply

1. Establish the procedures for the administration and enforcement of the code
2. Ensure local inspectors are code-certified
3. Track and report to SECO the code implementation
4. Visit [SPEER](https://www.eepartnership.org) website for resources to support cities in adoption the energy codes.

www.eepartnership.org

[SECO | State Energy Conservation Office](https://www.seco.nj.gov)

What's the role of Municipalities to comply

1. Texas is a 'home-rule' state, and cities can adopt local amendments, with certain conditions
2. Local amendments may not result in less stringent energy efficiency requirements in nonattainment areas and in affected counties [Health & Safety Code 388.003](#)
3. TX A&M Energy System Laboratory (ESL) will determine if propose code amended are as stringent as the existing state code. [Health & Safety Code 388.003 \(e\)](#).
4. Code amendments that are determined by ESL to be as stringent may be implemented through local ordinance.

Non-attainment and affected counties

Table 3.1

Counties in Texas Eligible for the TERP Program

Bastrop	Fort Bend	Jefferson	Smith
Bexar	Galveston	Johnson	Tarrant
Brazoria	Gregg	Kaufman	Travis
Caldwell	Guadalupe	Liberty	Upshur
Chambers	Hardin	Montgomery	Victoria
Collin	Harris	Nueces	Waller
Comal	Harrison	Orange	Williamson
Dallas	Hays	Parker	Wilson
Denton	Henderson	Rockwall	Wise
Ellis	Hood	Rusk	
El Paso	Hunt	San Patricio	



Enforcement Outside the Municipality

[Health & Safety Code Sec. 388.004](#)

1. Energy code applies to unincorporated areas of counties
2. Required even if counties do not provide inspection services
3. Private 3rd party code certified inspectors can perform service
4. ESL approved national, state or local accredited energy efficiency program
5. Builders can use building certified compliance form from ESL

How to know what energy code to use?

1. Designers should check with the local building permit office to inquire on local code and amendments
2. Municipalities may still be reviewing or updating their local codes before state code takes effect
3. Visit SPEER website for list of local codes adopted
4. Study Health & Safety Code Section 388.003
5. Read House Bill 1736 and the Texas Administrative Code

Questions ?

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