



Southwest Energy Efficiency Project

Saving Money and Reducing Pollution through Energy Conservation

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

June 16, 2011

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City of Denver Becomes Leader in Energy Conservation Codes

Denver, CO – On June 13, the Denver City Council acted to save Denver residents money and reduce emissions by adopting the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) for new home and commercial construction, renovations, and additions. The Council was unanimous in voting for the energy code and other International Codes for the City and County with a 9 to 0 vote.

The new energy code will achieve approximately a 15 percent increase in energy efficiency compared to the performance of homes built to the current Denver energy code, the 2006 International Energy Conservation Code. The new energy code will also achieve a 5 percent increase in energy efficiency for commercial building tenants and owners. The ordinance becomes effective June 17 and the code will take effect on October 17, 2011.

Denver joins other communities in Colorado which have adopted the 2009 IECC. Denver will now be the largest municipality in the state to have adopted this newer energy code. Residents of homes built to the newer energy code will actually see reduced out-of-pocket expenses, paying off the initial investment in months rather than years.

According to the Building Codes Assistance Project and the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, which performed the cost analysis for Colorado, the average new Denver home built to the 2009 IECC will see an average mortgage payment increase of only \$3.99. However, monthly energy savings of \$19.96 will offset this cost for an average net savings of about \$16 every month, or \$192 every year.

The new energy codes will result in substantial savings for Denver residents over the life of the home, and according to Jim Meyers, Director of Building Programs for the Southwest Energy Efficiency Project (SWEEP), “It is much easier and affordable to build energy efficient homes right the first time than weatherize and add energy efficiency to the home later.”

SWEEP congratulates the City of Denver, the City Council, Development Services and others who actively worked on the adoption of the 2009 I-codes and specifically the energy conservation code. For further details regarding the new energy code, see the Development Services webpage at <http://www.denvergov.org/Default.aspx?alias=www.denvergov.org/developmentservices>.

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About SWEEP: The Southwest Energy Efficiency Project (SWEEP) is a public interest organization dedicated to advancing energy efficiency in Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming. To learn more, visit www.swenergy.org.