



Southwest Energy Efficiency Project

Saving Money and Reducing Pollution through Energy Conservation

PRESS RELEASE

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New Mexico Becomes Leader in Residential Energy Conservation Codes

Albuquerque, NM – On July 30th, the New Mexico Construction Industries Commission (CIC) acted to save consumers money and protect the environment by adopting the 2009 New Mexico Energy Conservation Code (2009 NMECC) for new home construction.

The new residential code will achieve a 20 percent increase in energy efficiency compared to the performance of homes that meet the current 2006 New Mexico Energy Conservation Code. Homeowners will benefit from reduced monthly utility bills, decreased energy consumption and increased comfort. All New Mexicans will benefit from the reduced demand for energy that will substantially reduce greenhouse gas and other power plant emissions. The codes will take effect on January 1, 2011 with a six month phase-in period to provide time for a statewide code training process to be completed.

The new residential energy codes will also be a valuable tool for economic recovery in New Mexico. The codes will result in an average net savings of nearly \$14 per month (\$167 per year) for each homeowner. Over a ten year period, SWEEP estimates new homeowners in New Mexico will save over \$66 million dollars. Additionally, the new codes will increase demand for green products in New Mexico, adding to our growing green jobs and green product development activities.

The codes save money for the new homeowner starting in the very first month of ownership. For the average homeowner, the increase in monthly mortgage payment due to the first cost of energy savings measures is only \$12 per month, while the decrease in energy costs per month is over \$26. The energy savings will continue over the 50+ year life of a new home. "It is much easier to build energy-efficient new homes rather than try to add energy efficiency measures later," commented Tammy Fiebelkorn, SWEEP's New Mexico representative. "The new energy code approved by the CIC will go a long way towards ensuring that homes are built right."

Unfortunately, commercial building owners and tenants will have to wait to see if they will see similar benefits. Portions of the proposed Commercial Energy Conservation

Code were approved by the Commission, but two key components were amended and therefore must go through another round of public comments. We are hopeful that these sections will be approved by the CIC at their next meeting in September so the commercial sector will enjoy benefits similar to those afforded to the residential sector.

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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.