



Washington State Building Code Council

Improving the built environment by promoting health, safety and welfare

Created in 1974, the State Building Code Council (SBCC) provides independent analysis and objective advice to the Legislature and the Governor's Office on state building code issues. The SBCC establishes the minimum building, mechanical, fire, plumbing and energy code requirements necessary to promote the health, safety and welfare of the people of the state of Washington by reviewing, developing and adopting the state building code.

Part of the former Washington Department of General Administration, the SBCC moved to the new Department of Enterprise Services in 2011 as part of a major consolidation of state government. The SBCC is funded by a \$4.50 fee per building permit, plus \$2 per unit for buildings containing more than one residential unit.

Results and Achievements

In 2012, the SBCC conducted the following activities:

- Adopted the 2012 editions of the state building codes including building, mechanical, fire and plumbing codes with state amendments.
- Adopted the 2012 International Energy Conservation Code with state amendments to achieve a 6 percent to 8 percent energy savings in buildings. The 2012 codes are effective July 1, 2013.

Services

The SBCC reviews proposed changes to the state building codes. The council must approve or deny all city or county code amendments that apply to single-family or multi-family residential buildings.

- Technical advisory groups include experts in the design and construction industries and state and local enforcement officials.
- The SBCC provides written interpretations of the codes to local enforcement officials upon request.
- All code amendments are adopted through the rule-making process and must sit through a legislative session prior to enactment.

Performance Measures

The state building code provides for safety, health and energy efficiency in buildings. The SBCC monitors fire deaths per million residents compared to other states and nations.

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