



# ICC FACT SHEET

## **Selected Changes to the 2012 International Green Construction Code (IgCC) Compared to Public Version 2.0**

- For all Group R-3 (residential) occupancies of any height, Group R-2 and R-4 occupancies that are four stories and less in height, as well as detached one- and two-family dwellings (townhouses) not more than three stories in height—each jurisdiction has the flexibility to decide whether to include these structures in the scope of the IgCC through meeting the provisions of ICC 700. Residential occupancies of five stories and higher must comply with the IgCC, and have three paths to meeting the code: comply with the IgCC base requirements, comply with ASHRAE 189.1 or comply with ICC 700. Group R-1 occupancies that are three stories or less in height must comply with the IgCC base requirements. Group R-1 occupancies that are four stories and higher must comply with the IgCC base requirements or ASHRAE 189.1.
- Provisions for the protection of floodplains, wetlands, conservation areas, agricultural lands and green fields were refined to provide exceptions and options for compliance. With the exception of wetlands, the code allows the jurisdiction to determine whether to enforce these as mandatory requirements.
- Provisions related to project electives were moved from the body of the code to a new appendix.
- Whole building, life-cycle assessment is no longer a project elective. It is now an option to compliance with the code's material selection requirements.
- Storm water management requirements were refined and changed to be a minimum mandatory provision.
- The prohibition of using potable water for landscaping and outdoor water features was relaxed; use of non-potable water remains the first priority.



- While specific limits on the use of turf grass in landscaping were eliminated, a new provision requires 75% of new landscape areas to be planted with native species.
- Straw bale requirements were deleted.
- Mandatory provisions related to service life were deleted. Project electives related to service life were revised and moved to a new appendix.
- The outcome-based and energy use intensity-based paths for energy compliance were deleted. Prescriptive- and performance-based paths remain.
- Detailed air leakage requirements were removed. Requirements now are based on the *International Energy Conservation Code*.
- Air curtains are allowed as an alternative to vestibules.
- Requirements for acoustics were moved from mandatory requirements to jurisdictional electives.
- Requirements for a building owner education manual have been deleted.
- The IgCC includes ANSI/ASHRAE/USGBC/IES Standard 189.1 as a compliance option that will allow permit applicants—rather than the authority having jurisdiction—to decide whether to use 189.1 as the path of compliance with the IgCC.
- A summary of all final action changes is available at:  
[www.iccsafe.org/cs/IGCC/Documents/misc/2011FAH-Results.pdf](http://www.iccsafe.org/cs/IGCC/Documents/misc/2011FAH-Results.pdf).