

# Energy Code Benefits for Architects & Engineers

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Energy codes provide an opportunity for architects and engineers to serve the public good by creating buildings with low environmental impact. They promote innovative and energy-saving technologies and improve building comfort and resiliency. Energy codes are an entry point into sustainable construction and design.

### Energy Code Benefits

#### Energy Efficiency = Better Buildings

Energy codes are carefully crafted and built upon years of trial and error. They are guidelines that help you avoid the missteps of the past.

**The energy code relies on established building science principles that improve efficiency, health, and comfort.**



#### Meet Market Demand

There is a growing market for green, sustainable buildings. Architects and engineers with expertise in meeting and exceeding energy code requirements will more easily find their place in this thriving market.

**Meeting or exceeding energy codes may improve the reputation of architecture and engineering firms.**



#### Improved Comfort & Health

Buildings built to code have tighter building envelopes, making them less vulnerable to air leakage from the outside. This makes the indoor environment more comfortable. Adequate ventilation ensures good indoor air quality.

**Designing code compliant buildings helps architects create supportive environments for occupants.**



#### Reduced Emissions

Buildings generate almost 40% of global CO2 emissions. Energy codes give architects and engineers a straightforward way to work towards carbon neutrality in their trades.

**Meeting or exceeding code requirements is a big step towards making buildings net zero.**



## Innovation

As energy codes become more stringent, they drive innovation in energy-saving technologies that move the industry forward.

**The energy code encourages exploration of new technologies and design strategies that save energy.**



## Improved Resilience

A building that adheres to energy codes will have improved moisture management, extreme weather protection, fire safety, and energy performance.

**Energy codes improve the resilience of buildings.**



## Energy Codes Level the Playing Field

Minimum requirements establish a level of acceptable care which eliminates unfair competitive advantage from architects who cut corners.

**The energy code ensures that the care and investment you make in your work is acknowledged and valued.**



## Funding for your Clients

Interested in going beyond code? There are likely incentives to support your clients' projects. Utility incentive programs can fund up to 100% of efficiency projects.

**Look to local utility energy efficiency programs in your area to participate!**



## Will Energy Code Compliance Drive up First Costs?

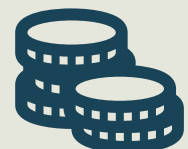
Meeting code requirements can increase first costs (e.g., more insulation material, more expensive lighting fixtures).



In other cases, designing for efficiency is actually cheaper (e.g., heating and cooling equipment that is sized correctly is cheaper).



Even if first costs increase slightly, the increase is more than offset by lower utility bills. Energy codes are carefully engineered to ensure beneficial return on investment over the life of the building.



## Who We Are

SEDAC is the Energy Code Training Provider on behalf of the Illinois EPA Office of Energy

Workshops | Webinars | Online Courses | Resources  
Technical Assistance

[smartenergy.illinois.edu/energy-code](https://smartenergy.illinois.edu/energy-code)  
[energycode@illinois.edu](mailto:energycode@illinois.edu)



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