

ADAMS ADOPTS STRETCH ENERGY CODES

The Town of Adams held a Town Meeting on June 23, 2015 where they adopted what is commonly referred to as the “Stretch Energy Code.” The energy codes are used in Massachusetts for any new or existing construction or remodeling projects as a way to improve the energy efficiency of its buildings.

In order to provide consistency among communities, once adopted the Stretch Energy Code can only go into effect on January 1st or July 1st and there must be at least six months between adoption and when the stretch code becomes mandatory. Since the Town of Adams voted to adopt in June, 2015, the stretch code becomes mandatory for Adams January 1, 2016. During the period between adoption (June 23, 2015) and mandatory use (January 1, 2016), designers and builders have the option of using either the 2012 IECC, which is the currently adopted Massachusetts Energy Code or The Stretch Energy Code. Once a designer chooses an option, the entire project must follow that path. As of January 1, 2016, the Stretch Code becomes mandatory for all new or remodeling construction in Adams.

Function

The Stretch Energy Code is an appendix to the Massachusetts Building Code, created by the Massachusetts Board of Building Regulations and Standards (BBRS).

It results in cost savings and environmental benefits through improved building energy efficiency. Since its adoption is optional, municipalities in the commonwealth may adopt the Stretch Energy Code on an individual basis.

Purpose

The Stretch Energy Code was developed to improve the energy efficiency of its buildings. It is based on a recently published International Energy Conservation Code 2009 (IECC) with a 20% increase in building efficiency requirements and the use of 3rd-party testing and rating of building energy performance. It has both commercial and residential components.

The following links may provide useful in understanding the requirements of the Stretch Energy Code.

Link to Frequently Asked Questions about “Stretch Energy Code”

<http://www.beverlyma.gov/docs/MASS-Stretch-Energy-FAQs.pdf>

Summary of the Massachusetts “Stretch Energy Code”

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/doer/green-communities/grant-program/stretch-code-summary-jun20-2011.pdf>

Additional questions may be directed to the Building Inspector’s Department at 413-743-8300.