

Strategies to increase awareness of and compliance with RBES and CBES (recommended in 2023 legislative report)

Structural, statutory, policy, and programmatic changes:

A.1. Designate the DFS as the statewide “authority having jurisdiction” (AHJ) over all building construction – public, private, commercial, residential.

A.2. Amend the energy code update cycle by changing “shall” in the energy code enabling statute to “may”. – **Complete**

A.3. Establish a study committee on adopting a statewide residential building code (e.g., IRC) – **In progress**

A.4. Require OPR to update contractor registry (A) so contractors explicitly acknowledge RBES/CBES legal requirements – **Complete** and (B) to alert consumers to RBES/CBES and provide filtering functionality, e.g., by specialties, location, and certifications. – **Beyond scope of registry.**

A.5. Authorize OPR to update their contract requirements and template for contractor-owner agreements to include a clause acknowledging that energy codes are mandatory. – **Complete**

A.6. Develop a certification designation for contractors trained on the energy codes and include the certification on the OPR Contractor Registry and DFS website – **In progress**

Improve the process for filing and tracking energy code certificates:

B.1. Expand DFS’s current database redesign to incorporate a statewide, central, publicly accessible repository for all Vermont buildings (including all residential) that includes energy code data.

Improve workforce training and support:

C. 1 Coordinate and support energy code trainings and certifications – **In progress** (EVT & EFG w/ DOE grant)

C.2. Develop “circuit rider” on-site energy code services statewide. – **In progress** (EVT & EFG w/ DOE grant)

C.3. Increase training and support for Energy Consultants. – **In progress** (EVT & EFG w/ DOE grant)

C.4. Increase and coordinate building science and energy code trainings including weatherization. – **In process** (OEO - building science training center being developed; EVT conducting trainings)

C.5. Coordinate the Energy Code Support Center (call center) with other code support efforts. – **In progress** (EVT)

Increase awareness of building energy codes and requirements:

- D.1. Develop and mail out bill stuffers reminding about energy codes
- D.2. Work with lenders and attorneys to include energy information on loan closing checklists
- D.3. Use state, regional, and municipal websites to reinforce energy code requirements.
- D.4. Create a radio show on building science and energy codes to educate the public.

Establish a plan for funding for base-code and above-base code compliance:

- E.1. Develop a funding plan to pay for start-up and ongoing costs to support the AHJ and energy code administration. – **In progress** (EFG w/ DOE grant)
- E.2. Establish a role for EEU's to play in supporting energy codes compliance and incentives. – **In progress** (EEU/TAG & PSD)

Coordinate code compliance grant efforts in Vermont:

- F.1. Coordinate with the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) grant to Energy Futures Group for the "Vermont Energy Code Administration Project" to support these strategies. – **In progress** (EFG w/ DOE grant)
- F.2. Continue the role of the Act 47 Building Energy Code Study Committee as the "Phase 2" Advisory Committee to EFG's DOE grant. – **In progress** (EFG w/ DOE grant)

Evaluation of cost-effectiveness analysis for RBES and CBES (recommended in 2023 legislative report)

- 1. Continue calculating energy code "cost effectiveness" as has been done historically.
- 2. Establish a new committee of energy, economic, and housing experts to research and address whether and how to best include the cost of carbon and non-energy benefits in building energy codes for new and existing buildings