



The Growing Mandate for Green Buildings

APPA's Green Codes Work Group to monitor Standard 189.1 and the International Green Construction Code (IgCC), and their impact on campus facilities

By Mark Goska and John Bernhards

As a facilities and physical plant professional, you are certainly aware of the influence of ASHRAE Standard 90.1 as well as the LEED certification process, which operates under the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC). Together, ASHRAE 90.1 and LEED represent in many respects the first significant attempt to establish voluntary standards and rating systems that support sustainable construction, as well as green energy, operations, and resource management practices within the built environment. In more recent years, however, we have

seen the next forward leap: a movement toward *codification* of green building standards, through the creation of Standard 189.1 and the publication of the International Code Council's International Green Construction Code, commonly referred to as IgCC.

Standard 189.1, *Standard for the Design of High-Performance Green Buildings, Except Low-Rise Residential Buildings*, is an ANSI American National Standard produced through the combined efforts of the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration, and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE); the USGBC; and the Illuminating Engineering Society (IES). It provides minimum requirements for the siting, design, construc-

tion, and operation of high-performance green buildings.

Known for its creation of model codes, the ICC has published the IgCC—a readily adoptable green construction code for use by states and municipalities. ICC established IgCC in collaboration with the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) International and the American Institute of Architects. Standard 189.1 is cited as a jurisdictional compliance option within the IgCC. As of October 2013, five U.S. states (Florida, Maryland, North Carolina, Oregon, and Rhode Island) have adopted the IgCC, along with cities and municipalities in Arizona, New Hampshire, and Washington State. And you can be certain that more are soon to follow.

The IgCC identifies *mandatory* baseline requirements for building and site sustainability. It also establishes mandatory baseline requirements for building products, in a manner similar to mandatory provisions found in other codes for structural and fire requirements. It addresses key elements of green building design: Site Development and Land Use, Material Resource Conservation and Efficiency, Energy Conservation, Water Resource Conservation and Efficiency, and Indoor Environmental Quality.

APPA'S GREEN CODES WORKING GROUP

As compliance efforts within jurisdictions take shape, there is a need for the



education sector to carefully monitor and examine how green codes compliance will ultimately impact new and existing construction, as well as how educational facilities and other physical assets are operated and managed. It is why the APPA Standards and Codes Council established in December 2013 its Green Codes Working Group, which is responsible for the following activities:

1. Monitor the development of new and existing "Green Building" standards and codes, to include Standard 189.1 and the IgCC.
2. Educate APPA members on the impact of green building standards and codes in the educational facilities environment.
3. Where necessary, prepare APPA position statements for consideration and approval by the APPA Standards and Codes Council, regarding new green building standards and codes and proposed changes to existing standards and codes.
4. Where opportunities exist, offer proposed changes and recommendations to existing and proposed green building standards under development within ASHRAE, ICC, and other external standards committees and code-setting bodies.

To launch its activities, the Green Codes Work Group conducted its inaugural conveners' meeting on February 19. The virtual conference meeting attracted over 80 senior facilities officers, directors, managers, and codes specialists from among 60 APPA member institutions, as well as persons with standards and codes expertise from APPA's business partner community.

All facilities professionals and persons with codes compliance responsibilities at their educational institutions are encouraged to attend future work group meetings and to participate in its activities. The Work Group meetings are monthly and virtual to encourage the broadest possible participation among APPA member institutions and to make

meeting attendance as convenient as possible.

Contact Mark Goska at mgoska@uab.edu or John Bernhards at john@appa.org to learn more about joining the Green Codes Work Group and supporting APPA in educating and leading its member institutions on this important, emerging issue. ☎

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