



## NEW CONSTRUCTION IN WESTMINSTER

Introducing the latest energy code updates for the City of Westminster, Colorado! As part of our commitment to sustainability and energy efficiency, we have implemented the **2021 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC)** along with **Model Electric Ready** and **Solar Ready Codes**. These new standards ensure that all new commercial and multi-family construction and major renovation projects meet or exceed rigorous energy performance criteria. This flyer will help you understand and comply with these updated codes, fostering a greener and more energy-efficient community.

### Overview of New Energy Codes

#### Energy efficiency and compliance

- 1. Adoption of 2021 IECC and Model Electric Ready and Solar Ready Codes:**
  - Ensure all new construction projects comply with the energy performance standards of the 2021 IECC or better. This includes adopting the Model Electric Ready and Solar Ready Codes as required by HB22-1362.
- 2. Climate-Specific Insulation Requirements:**
  - Follow the specific R-values and U-factors for insulation based on the local climate zone (e.g., Climate Zone 5B for Westminster). This includes different requirements for roofs, walls, floors, and slabs to maximize energy efficiency.
- 3. Thermal Envelope and Fenestration:**
  - Adhere to the maximum U-factor and SHGC for vertical fenestration (windows, doors, skylights) as specified in Table C402.4. This helps in minimizing heat loss and gain, enhancing energy conservation.

#### Heat pump and HVAC systems

- 4. Heat Pump Supplementary Heat Controls:**
  - Install controls to prevent supplementary heating when the heat pump can meet the heating load. Ensure these systems comply with the specified conditions for supplementary heat operation to avoid unnecessary energy use.

#### Building definitions and standards

- 5. Definition Adjustments:**
  - Align the definitions of residential and commercial buildings with the International Residential Code (IRC) and International Building Code (IBC) as per the amendments. This includes defining residential buildings as detached one- and two-family dwellings, townhouses, and certain Group R buildings.
- 6. Installation and Certification:**
  - Ensure that all materials, systems, and equipment are installed per manufacturer instructions and meet the Grade I insulation standard in ICC/RESNET 301



## WESTMINSTER

Normative Appendix A. Certificates should clearly indicate the code edition and compliance path used.

### Solar and electric readiness

#### 7. Solar-Ready Zones:

- For buildings that include a solar-ready zone, ensure the certificate indicates the location and dimensions of this zone. This preparation facilitates future solar panel installations and compliance with sustainability goals.

### Waivers and variances

#### 8. Requesting Waivers:

- Understand the conditions under which waivers can be requested, such as substantial cost differentials exceeding 1% of total mechanical, electrical, and plumbing costs, or in the case of natural disasters. Prepare necessary documentation and professional analyses to substantiate waiver requests.

## Xcel Energy Resources

### Energy Design Assistance

For large construction or renovation projects of 50,000 square feet or more, this service offers comprehensive energy modeling to identify both energy and cost-savings and rebates based on a whole building energy efficiency approach. Visit [Xcel Energy Design Assistance](#) to learn more.

### Energy Efficient Buildings

Often used for construction or renovations of 50,000 square feet or less, this service identifies energy-saving opportunities and offers rebates for installing high-efficiency equipment. To explore more visit [Xcel Energy Efficient Buildings](#).

## Other Resources

[Colorado Codes Helpline](#)

[Westminster Building Energy Upgrade](#)

[Westminster Energy Efficiency and Electrification](#)

[Westminster Electric Vehicles](#)

[Develop in Westminster](#)

**Questions? Concerns? Want to learn more? Contact the Building Division:**

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