

**Agenda
Item
IV.C.**

State of Oregon

Board memo

Building Codes Division

February 23, 2010

To: Construction Industry Energy Board (CIEB)

From: Aeron Teverbaugh
Policy Analyst Green Building Services

Subject: Oregon Reach Code

Action requested:

None

Background:

Senate Bill 79 requires the division, in consultation with the appropriate board, to develop and periodically update an Oregon Reach Code related to energy efficiency. The “reach” or “aspirational” code will be a set of statewide optional energy construction standards that go beyond the requirements of the existing codes. The methods contained in the Oregon Reach Code must be economically and technologically feasible. For the development of the Oregon Reach Code, the bill calls for the director to review generally accepted codes and standards that achieve greater energy efficiency and to review the technical components of generally accepted construction documents. The Oregon Reach Code will specifically consider construction criteria for federal, state, and local financial incentives. The decision whether to build to this code's standard belongs to the developer/owner and must be accepted by the jurisdiction if it complies with the Oregon Reach Code.

The Oregon Reach Code will provide both prescriptive and performance options for building more energy efficient structures. Provisions will encompass all aspects of both commercial and residential construction. The Oregon Reach Code has no effect on licensing and certification requirements. Products, equipment, and devices that are included in the code are exempt from product certification standards for the purpose of installation under the Oregon Reach Code. Like a statewide alternate method, municipalities are required to recognize and accept the standards, methods, and products if a person applies to construct, reconstruct or alter a structure following the code. Provisions in the Oregon Reach Code will be specifically evaluated for inclusion in the statewide code in the next code change cycle.

The division anticipates that adoption of the Oregon Reach Code will follow the general process the division uses for updating and adopting statewide codes. The division is assessing model documents that could form the basis of the Oregon Reach Code, including:

- The Core Performance Guide as developed by the New Building Institute (NBI)
- The 2012 International Energy Conservation Code
- The International Green Construction Code (IgCC)
- ASHRAE 189.1
- Calgreen
- The IAPMO Green Plumbing Code
- High Performance Homes Program as developed by the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE)

Once the division has decided on a base model code, it will accept code change proposals from the public and committee and work toward a comprehensive, technologically and economically feasible aspirational code.

Because the Oregon Reach Code will intersect with both residential and commercial construction practices, the division plans to bring the Oregon Reach Code before the CIEB for approval. The division is in the beginning stages of forming a committee for assessing code change proposals for the Oregon Reach Code. Because the Oregon Reach Code sets standards above the existing statewide code, work on the code will not begin until the commercial energy provisions brought forward in this current code cycle are approved for adoption. We anticipate that the code will be available fall of 2010.