



## *2011 Oregon Reach Code Advisory Committee Goals and Outcomes*

### BACKGROUND:

Development of the Reach Code is mandated by the 2009 Senate Bill 79. SB 79 requires the Department of Consumer and Business Services' Building Codes Division (BCD or division) to adopt an optional set of construction standards for achieving greater energy efficiency than if a building were constructed under the statewide mandatory codes. Energy Efficiency is defined in the bill as "the use of construction and design standards, construction methods, products, equipment and devices to increase efficient use of, and reduce consumption of, electricity, natural gas and fossil fuels."

SB 79 evolved out of the Governor's Energy Efficiency Work Group and included in his legislative priorities on combating climate change. The bill in general is aimed at increasing the energy efficiency in buildings undergoing construction, reconstruction, alteration or repair. In addition to the Reach Code, the bill also requires the BCD to immediately increase the energy efficiency of commercial and residential buildings by 15-25 and 10-15% respectively. The Reach Code will go beyond these energy savings. The goal of the bill is to set up a mechanism for continually increasing the energy efficiency of buildings in Oregon to eventually meet the net zero goals set out by Architecture 2030. Provisions of the Reach Code will be examined during the statewide code amendment cycle to determine if they should be moved over into the mandatory code.

The option to build under the Reach Code is at the discretion of the builder. When a structure is built, remodeled, or altered under the Reach Code a jurisdiction is required to recognize the construction methods, standards, and products as if they were a part of the mandatory code. In this way, the Reach Code will act as an educational tool. Builders and code officials will be able to learn about new products and state of the art techniques to create more energy efficient buildings. The Reach Code will be amended on a three year cycle with the goal of continually strengthening the energy efficiency standards.

### GOALS AND OUTCOMES

In preparation for the adoption of the 2011 *Oregon Reach Code (ORC)*, please consider the following division priorities:

- The committee's purpose is to develop Oregon's first optional set of construction standards to be implemented on a statewide basis. The goal is to have a code that addresses as many elements as possible of residential and commercial construction.
- The goal of the code is to provide a path for the construction of structures to a higher level of energy efficiency than the statewide mandatory code.

- The code will focus on the use of construction and design standards, construction methods, products, equipment and devices to increase efficient use of, and reduce consumption of, electricity, natural gas and fossil fuels.
- SB 79 requires the methods standards and techniques used in the code to be technologically and economically feasible.
- The code should align to the degree possible with federal, state, and local incentives to encourage use of the code.
- Appropriate Issues: The codes in Oregon are designated by statute to set the uniform and statewide standard for *construction, reconstruction, alteration, and repair* of buildings in Oregon. Any provisions in the code that falls outside those parameters, such as maintenance, and certification and licensing issues, will not be included.