

FOCUS

The Department of Consumer and Business Services, Building Codes Division (BCD) is helping to integrate energy efficiency and green building techniques into Oregon's built environment, targeting:

- energy efficiency
- renewable energy
- water conservation
- electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure

STRATEGY

BCD supports the state's growing expertise in green building design and construction by:

- partnering with stakeholders to develop construction standards for practices and products
- assisting local jurisdictions in addressing the challenges of permitting new, innovative technologies
- developing outreach and training services on new materials and construction methods

ACTIONS

Flexibility and support of high performance construction methods in code adoption, product approval, and permitting are three areas that BCD is targeting with the following actions:

Energy efficiency

- [Oregon Energy Efficiency Specialty Code](#) (OEESC), which reduces energy use in new commercial construction by more than 15% over the 2007 code, became effective July 1, 2010 (SB 79).
- The [Oregon Reach Code](#) an optional set of construction standards that reduces energy use beyond the requirements in the state's mandatory codes became effective July, 1, 2011 for commercial construction and October 1, 2011 for residential construction (SB 79).
- Formed the [Construction Industry Energy Advisory Board](#) to streamline adoption of energy efficiency and other green building standards, practices, and products (HB 2950).
- Board decision allowing the installation of high performance boilers and pressure vessels built to internationally-recognized construction standards increases efficiency and supports energy generation from biomass (2009).

Renewable energy

- The nation's first statewide [solar code](#) to expedite the installation and permitting of photovoltaic (PV) systems became effective October 1, 2010.
- Establishment of a rule ([OAR 918-311-0080](#)) creating a streamlined certification process for small-scale wind turbines (approved 2009).
- Statewide alternate method (SAM) to allow the use of single-walled [heat exchangers](#) for solar hot water systems (approved 2008).

Water Conservation

- SAM on construction standards for rainwater harvesting systems for both [potable](#) and [non-potable](#) uses (approved 2008, revised 2010).
- SAM on construction standards for gray water systems for flushing toilets in [residential](#) and [commercial](#) structures (approved 2008, revised 2010).
- Participation on the [gray water advisory committee](#) formed by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to develop a permitting process for using gray water for outdoor irrigation (HB 2080)

Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Infrastructure

- Published Oregon Smart Guide on [Electric Vehicle Charging at Home](#) (2011).
- Expedited permitting process for home charging stations through the state's '[minor label](#)' program (approved 2010).
- SAM for calculating electrical service for facilities installing [multiple charging units](#) (approved 2009).