

BEFORE YOU BUY (OR REMODEL)... THINK “ENERGY”

WHY ENERGY CODES ARE IMPORTANT FOR OMAHA

WHAT ARE ENERGY CODES?

Energy codes are minimum requirements for the design and construction of new and renovated residential and commercial buildings.

Many cities update energy codes every three years, to keep up with advancements in technology and construction methods... but some do not. In those cities, building to outdated standards causes home and business owners to pay unnecessarily high energy bills every month for the lifetime of the building. Currently, Omaha’s code is based on the 2006 version of the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC).



WHY ARE ENERGY CODES IMPORTANT?

Residential and commercial buildings use 49% of all energy consumed in the United States. Modern energy codes protect Omaha citizens and our economy from increasingly high energy bills. As a nation, our growing demand for energy impacts:

- **A family’s standard of living:** Money spent on monthly energy bills can be spent elsewhere.
- **Our economy:** Every dollar not spent on imported energy, is money that remains in our economy. The more energy we import, the more dollars we export.
- **The environment:** Energy efficiency reduces air, water, and soil pollution because fewer fossil fuels are burned to meet demand.
- **U.S. competitiveness:** Lower energy bills make it easier for American businesses to thrive.
- **Jobs:** Increased demand for energy efficient goods and services provides jobs for contractors, insulators, mechanical systems companies, window manufacturers, and more.
- **Energy rates:** Energy codes help keep rates lower by delaying the need to build costly new power plants, and ease the strain on our nation’s aging utility grid that delivers energy from power plants to our homes and businesses.
- **National security:** As our demand for energy rises, energy efficiency reduces the amount of energy we need to import from outside the U.S.

✓ 85% of Omaha residents believe homeowners have a right to a home that meets current up-to-date energy codes¹

✓ 84% of all homebuyers consider low utility costs very important when buying a new home²

For more information, visit: <http://www.energycodesocean.org/city/omaha>

¹MSR Market Research. *Omaha Energy Code Awareness Study*. Omaha, NE, July 2013.

²National Association of Home Builders (NAHB). *What Home Buyers Really Want*. 2012



Building Codes Assistance Project
Dedicated to the adoption, implementation, and advancement of building energy codes