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POSITION PAPER

Adoption of the 2012 IECC

The San Antonio Chapter of The American Institute of Architects (AIA San Antonio) supports adoption of the 2012 IECC.

The Mission Verde plan established in 2009 by then Mayor Hardberger set a goal to achieve carbon neutrality for new construction by 2030. Adoption of the 2012 IECC is necessary to align with the required trajectory to reach this goal. Additionally, adoption of an improved energy code also aligns with SA2020's goals for environmental sustainability.

AIA San Antonio supports the adoption of the 2012 IECC in that it has far reaching positive implications for our city while at the same time, reflects many of the AIA's 10 Principles of Livable Communities. Lessening our carbon emissions would:

1. Aid in goal of maintaining compliance with the EPA's Clean Air Act Regulations.
2. Provide better air quality in the city.
3. Make San Antonio more competitive and attractive through sustainable design.
4. Create cost-effective, long-term energy savings for citizens and businesses.
5. Waiting to adopt the 2015 IECC (which would go into effect at the earliest in 2016) increases the disparity between the current trend and the trajectory needed to reach carbon neutrality by 2030.
6. Immediate adoption of the 2012 IECC creates an interim step to minimize the differences between the 2009 and 2015 codes.

The 2012 IECC has been reviewed by Energy Systems Laboratory (ESL), resulting in a recommendation that the Texas State Energy Conservation Office (SECO) adopt the code. According to the Department of Energy, Climate Zone 2 (San Antonio) would yield an 18% efficiency for commercial buildings. For residential structures, ESL's findings show a 14%-19% efficiency over our current code.

AIA San Antonio applauds our City's commitment to the goal of achieving carbon neutrality and supports the immediate adoption of the 2012 IECC.