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## ICC LAUNCHES GREEN CONSTRUCTION CODE

Initiative for commercial buildings aims to reduce energy usage, carbon footprint

The International Code Council has launched its International Green Construction Code initiative, which will aim to reduce commercial buildings' energy usage and carbon footprint.

Entitled "EGCC: Safe and Sustainable By the Book," the initiative will develop a model code for new and existing commercial buildings' design and performance. Buildings consume approximately 40 percent of the energy used within the U.S. and produce nearly the same percentage of the nation's carbon emissions.

The ICC included a number of key organizations during their announcement, including the AIA and the American Society for Testing and Materials. The AIA and ASTM served as cooperating sponsors on the project.

"We believe the time has come for us to develop a code that will stand as a useful and credible regulatory framework for creating a greener commercial building stock," said Richard Weiland, CEO of the ICC. "We applaud and plan to utilize the good work of those who have developed systems, guidelines and standards to address green buildings."

Weiland acknowledged the presence of many organizations that have developed green tools, and welcomed their support and assistance in crafting the new initiative. After recognizing the historic role ICC members had in the development of codes such as the International Energy Conservation Code, Weiland said it was time to move into a new era of codes focused on green buildings and high performance.

"We are now at a place in the evolution of the sustainability movement that requires the specificity, the reliability, and the enforceability that only a code can bring," he said.

ICC Board President Adolf Zubia outlined the council's development timeline that includes public meetings of the Sustainable Building Technology Committee, a public comment period and a final draft. The final draft will be available in 2010, as a resource document, before it moves through the development hearing and final action hearing stages. The Code council board established the SBTC in 2008 and finalized the committee's membership earlier this year.

The AIA and ASTM will have visible participation in the development process. Weiland referenced the compatibility of the AIA 2030 carbon neutrality goals with the green code initiative, and emphasized the importance of design, architects and architecture in creating a useful tool for AISA members and ICC membership.

The cooperation of the ASTM "signals the collaboration behind this project and the science that will drive it," Weiland said. "Their cooperation with us will ensure we pursue a development process that is based on recognized and verifiable approaches to standards."

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