

NYIEC PRESENTATION #1

Title: Highlights of New 2025 NYC Energy Code: Six Months In - Energy Credits, ULEB, and the Road to Performance

New York City began enforcing the 2025 NYC Energy Conservation Code on March 30, 2026. Six months into implementation, industry can move from asking what changed to seeing how the code affects real projects. This presentation will summarize the major 2025 updates, including the additional-efficiency-credit framework, revised treatment of historic buildings, and expanded documentation and testing requirements. Drawing on early review experience, we will identify recurring causes of returns and objections - incorrect code dates, undocumented credits, incomplete calculations, and misalignment among EN sheets, drawings, COMcheck/REScheck reports, and energy models. We will then show how to build an energy-credit strategy, using examples of HVAC efficiency credits, recovered or renewable service water heating, and heat-pump water-heater calculations. The session will also cover Ultra-Low Energy Building (ULEB) compliance, performance modeling, and the DOE performance compliance form. Finally, we will look ahead to the shift toward performance-based energy codes, where modeling, verification, and measurable outcomes play a larger role. Attendees will leave with a practical framework for designing and documenting projects more efficiently and reducing avoidable compliance issues.

Speaker's Bio



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Duncan Brown, RA, CEM, is Director of Energy Code Compliance at the New York City Department of Buildings. His work focuses on implementation and review of NYC energy-code requirements, including energy modeling, additional efficiency credits, compliance documentation, testing, and emerging performance-based pathways. A registered architect and Certified Energy Manager, he works with design professionals and industry stakeholders to translate increasingly complex energy requirements into clear, reviewable, and buildable projects.