

ICC Government Relations' Monthly Update



INTERNATIONAL
CODE
COUNCIL®

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Early bird registration and voter validation deadlines are nearing for the 2023 ICC Annual Conference

The 2023 ICC Annual Conference and Expo in St. Louis will begin October 8, but there are two deadlines attendees should remember that are practically around the corner:

- **Thursday, August 31** – Deadline for early bird registrations. Save money on your registration costs and receive a free conference polo shirt. Don't delay and register today!
- **Friday, September 8** – Deadline for voter validation, required for those voting in the Annual Business Meeting. All governmental voting representatives who plan to attend the 2023 ABM need to be validated in order to vote on Code Council. [Voter Validation Process FAQs](#) page to get more information. The [validation site](#) is open.

Need to demonstrate to your boss why the Code Council's conference is a good investment? We've got you covered with our [justification letter template](#). Use this template to explain what you'll get out of attending the event, and how much it will cost. Feel free to customize as needed. [Read more here](#).



Annual golf fundraiser set for Sunday, October 8, to kick off activities around St. Louis

The Ron Burton Annual Golf Outing is set for Sunday, October 8, in conjunction with the 2023 Annual Conference and Expo in St. Louis. Organized by the ICC Past Presiding Officers, this event includes a number of sponsorship opportunities. Proceeds will go toward training and resources for the next generation of code officials. The Ron Burton Golf Outing celebrates the life and work of William Ronald "Ron" Burton, a renowned code expert who worked on many code-related projects for ICC, BOMA and the NAHB. The tournament will be a shotgun-start at 8 a.m. at the [Stonewolf Golf Club](#), 1195 Stonewolf Trail, Fairview Heights, Illinois. [Read more here](#).

ICC and MBI launch national initiative focused on the adoption of off-site construction standards

In advance of the recent joint ICC/U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Off-Site Construction Summit, the Code Council and the Modular Building Institute (MBI) launched a national initiative focused on adopting standards for off-site construction. ICC/MBI Standards [1200](#) and [1205](#) capture best practices to streamline the deployment of off-site projects. Communities are struggling with housing affordability. The United States has seen housing costs rise [52 percent](#) from 2017 to 2022. Off-site construction offers an affordable solution that reduces construction timelines and costs [by 20 percent](#) while providing sustainability benefits with the potential to reduce material waste by [more than 80 percent](#). Despite significant benefits from off-site construction, some barriers are limiting uptake, including varying state and local regulatory requirements and a lack of understanding of the off-site construction process. [Read more here](#).

FEMA's report on the post-Hurricane Ida recovery spotlights mitigation lessons applicable to all states

The Hurricane Ida DRRR Section 1206 Implementation Case Study is now available and reviews the implementation of the Disaster Recovery Reform Act (DRRA) Section 1206 Policy after Hurricane Ida in Louisiana (DR-4611). It shares the lessons learned for future state, local, tribal, and territorial governments looking to implement this type of approach. [Read more here](#).

DOWNLOAD YOUR COPY: New Congressional Research Service report examines codes and resiliency

The Congressional Research Service recently published a new report, "[Building Resilience: FEMA's Building Codes Policies and Considerations for Congress](#)," which examines the fact that the safer the built environment – accomplished through strong building codes – the less devastating natural hazards and disasters are for the occupants of those buildings in impacted communities. It also delves into the relationship between increasing frequency and severity of natural hazards and disasters and the inconsistent adoption and enforcement of modern codes across the nation, despite the current and

increasing risk faced by most Americans. It recognizes that many Americans have little knowledge of building safety codes that currently apply or may have applied to their structures at the time of construction or alteration. There are many options presented for congressional action, ranging from additional federal cost share for local current code adoptions, to reductions in federal cost share for those not on any code or using out-of-date or weakened codes. [Click here for your download.](#)

“Building Safety Leadership Experience” gives participants an inside view of Code Council governance

New for 2023, the Building Safety Leadership Experience provides a unique opportunity for members to engage with leaders and stakeholders at the International Code Council Annual Conference and Expo. Participants will attend a series of events throughout the conference, learning about Code Council governance, the Code Council’s Chapter program and the Membership Councils. [The deadline to apply is July 15.](#) Candidates will be selected by the Executive Committee of the ICC Board of Directors. Participants will receive complimentary registration to the International Code Council Annual Conference and Expo and will be reimbursed for associated airfare, ground transportation and lodging costs. To be considered, a candidate must be 25 years of age or older and a current member of the International Code Council. [Read more here.](#)

NREL’s 2022 Annual Performance Review finds communities using SolarAPP+ saving time and money

The National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) recently released the [2022 Annual Performance Review](#) of its automated solar project permitting system – The Solar Automated Permit Processing Plus (SolarAPP+). Solar energy is an increasingly popular option to meet Americans’ energy needs. As of 2022, [39 percent of Americans](#) had given serious thought to installing solar panels on their home within the past year. As rooftop photovoltaic (PV) becomes more efficient, accessible, desirable and prevalent, some towns and cities are finding it is straining the capacity of local government staff to issue permits. SolarAPP+ aims to reduce this gap in staff capacity. [Read more here.](#)

Recent events highlight the importance of the Code Council’s Guideline Development Committee

The International Code Council’s Existing Building Safety – A Guideline for Inspection (G7-202x) Guideline Development Committee (GDC) is meeting to develop a new guideline for the inspection of existing buildings based on an initial draft of the Existing Building Safety Inspection Guideline. Events such as the Surfside Condominium collapse and other recent events in New York City and Davenport Iowa, highlight the need for guidance on the maintenance and inspections of existing buildings. GDC members represent a diverse cross-section of highly experienced code officials, engineers, construction material and trade specialists. The first committee meeting was June 26 with a recurring meeting every two weeks starting on July 11. [Read more here.](#)

Some tips for Chapter leaders on Chapter Education Benefits and ICC Preferred Provider issues

If you would like to redeem your Chapter Education Benefit, please follow the steps outlined on the [Chapter Education Benefits page online.](#) As a reminder, if you have not submitted an Annual Report this year you must submit one to renew your benefits for the current year. The benefits do not accumulate and expire each year on December 31. If you have questions regarding how to submit your Annual Report, please contact Tamika Dunning at tdunning@iccsafe.org. To check your benefits and rewards log into MyICC at iccsafe.org. Also, a reminder to Chapter leaders that qualify as ICC Preferred Providers: When you have a moment, look over your Preferred Provider account. Does your course listing need to be updated? Deleting courses that are more than three years old and no longer being offered helps students find their classes more easily when they are reporting their CEUs. Does your profile need updating too? How about your payment method? Drop us a line at ppp@iccsafe.org if you need assistance changing your information.

Connecticut’s Gayathri Vijayakumar receives Leadership in Sustainability & Energy Efficiency Award

The International Code Council presented the [National Leadership in Sustainability and Energy Efficiency Award](#) to Gayathri Vijayakumar during the U.S. Department of Energy’s recent [2023 National Energy Codes Conference](#) in Chicago. The award recognizes outstanding contributions to the growth and enhancement of International Codes® (I-Codes) and/or public policy by advocating for the principles of the Code Council’s [Sustainability Membership Council](#). Vijayakumar, Principal Mechanical Engineer

at [Steven Winter Associates, Inc.](#) (SWA) in Connecticut, was selected for her dedication to establishing consensus in the development of the [2024 International Energy Conservation Code](#)® (IECC), which ultimately will help achieve global net-zero energy and decarbonization goals. [Read more here.](#)

'Things that keep building safety professionals up at night' outlines top concerns and solutions

From building inspectors to fire marshals, building safety professionals are key in keeping our homes, schools and businesses safe. As the silent defenders of public safety, they work to ensure that buildings are constructed and maintained to withstand the stresses of both everyday use and potentially disastrous events, such as earthquakes, fires or tornados. These highly trained professionals are on the front lines of building safety and have witnessed firsthand the dangers of homes and businesses not being constructed and maintained to modern safety codes and standards. [Read more here.](#)

Special webinar walks grant preparers through BRIC application process and its uses in communities

Grant applications for the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) are available. Want to know how you can use this federal grant program to support building code related activities in your community? Join the Code Council for an informative and FREE webinar to learn more about the process so you can be a prepared candidate. [Register here to participate in the webinar set for 3-4 p.m. Eastern on Tuesday, August 15.](#)

Code adoption and training funding is available through HUD's \$3 billion allocations for CDBG-DR

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has published the Allocations for [Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery \(CDBG-DR\)](#) along with the implementation of the CDBG-DR Consolidated Waivers and Alternative Requirements Notice. In March 2023, HUD allocated more than \$3 billion in CDBG-DR funds for major disasters in 2022. An additional \$142 million will be allocated later. The Allocation Announcement Notice provides grant requirements and amendments to the Consolidated Notice. Specific allocations are made to certain states and territories, as well as "most impacted and distressed" (MID) areas. The funds can be used for **code adoption, training** and post-disaster damage assessment. Review your respective [grantee website](#) and reach out to the program manager(s) listed about participating in the public comment process ASAP. The Code Council team is available for grant application development assistance. Click this "[Schedule a Consultation](#)" to book a one-on-one virtual meeting with the Code Council's Energy and Resilience Project Manager.

Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant application deadlines are coming up

Eligible state, local and Tribal governments can now apply for \$430 million in funding from the **Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program**. EECBG funding can be used [to support development and implementation of building codes to support building energy efficiency](#). The Department of Energy has updated the [Pre-Award Information Sheet](#) and extended the **State deadline to July 31, 2023**. Please submit as soon as possible by emailing EECBG@hq.doe.gov. Local governments and tribal governments can apply through January 2024. **Next Steps:**

- Check to confirm that your [state](#), [local government](#), or [Tribe](#) is eligible for an EECBG Program formula award and determine your allocation amount.
- To learn more, check out Sections 2.3, 9.0 and Appendix 1 of the [EECBG Program Application Instructions](#) or [watch the webinar](#).
- Review the allowable activities, found on page 6 of the [EECBG Program Application Instructions](#). Submit this [Optional Information Collection Form](#) so DOE can keep in touch with you.

ICC supports building safety professionals to attend Women Leaders in Code Enforcement Symposium

The International Code Council sponsored several building safety professionals from around the country to attend the Women Leaders in Code Enforcement Symposium ([WLCE](#)) held in San Diego, California, both in person and virtually. "It was great to attend the WLCE symposium, and I was amazed and awed by the speakers," said Code Council sponsorship recipient Kimberly Norman-Rosedam. "I felt so inspired and proud to be part of this industry with so many women who look like me." The WLCE was established to help advance improvements in the construction field and to promote a supportive learning

environment for women in the building industry. Through training, networking and industry connections, WLCE fosters and supports women in current and future leadership roles. [Read more here.](#)

Consider submitting an article for consideration on your experiences in the Building Safety Journal

The Code Council's Building Safety Journal is accepting submissions that cover relevant current trends and hot topics within the building safety industry. Editorial categories include deep dives, technical topics, personal perspectives, member news and quick hits. [Click here to learn more and submit.](#)

***GOT PULSE?* The newest Pulse upload features five different episodes on some timely topics**

If you enjoy the [Code Council's Pulse Podcasts](#), there's quite a lot to enjoy and consider with Episodes 51 through 55 being uploaded this week on the ICC podcast webpage. They are:

Episode 51 - Building Accessibility Standards in the U.S. and Beyond. Enjoy this series of interviews with accessibility standards experts, we discuss accessibility standards in the United States and Canada and their impact when constructing buildings. We also highlight the history and impact of the ICC/ANSI A117.1 Standard: Accessible and Usable Buildings and Facilities.

Episode 52 - Water Reuse in the United States. We explore how water reuse can be a safe, innovative way to help save the world's water supply. We speak with a few experts on breaking the stigma of water reuse and how reusing water is possible in our homes and businesses.

Episode 53 - How a Code Becomes a Code. This episode follows a summarized journey of how a building code is developed and advocated in the United States, as told by the International Code Council's Technical Services engineers and Government Relations representatives.

Episode 54 - Off-site Construction: Today's Revolution for the Industry. We break down what off-site construction is, the history of off-site construction and how this type of construction is gaining popularity as a form of construction to help solve the affordable housing crisis.

Episode 55 - Tales of Code Enforcement. We highlight perspectives from code enforcement officers educating the code enforcement officer profession, including stories from being on-the-job and how the public perception of code enforcement officers continues to improve.



ICC Plumbing, Mechanical and Fuel Gas updates

Review the most common solar water heating systems used for residential, small commercial settings

Solar water heating systems provide an efficient way to meet hot water loads in most climates. Unlike photovoltaic (PV) systems that generate electricity, most solar water heating systems directly heat fluids using solar energy. Fluid flows through outdoor solar thermal collectors where it is warmed by the sun. Solar energy has been used to heat water for centuries. Modern solar water heaters first appeared in the late 1800s and have been refined considerably since. Designs range from a simple "tank in a box" configuration to complex arrangements with multiple collectors, tanks, sensors and advanced controls. Domestic water heating systems are encountered most frequently by code officials. [Read more here.](#)

2021 ISPSC Residential Swimming Pool and Spa permit and plan guidelines are explained

The International Swimming Pool and Spa Code® (ISPSC) requires construction documents, engineering calculations, diagrams and other such data be submitted in two or more sets with each application for a permit. When the work is of a "minor nature," either in scope or needed description, the code official may use his or her judgment in determining the need for a detailed description of the work. For example, the construction documents for an on-ground storable pool could be in the form of the manufacturer's installation instructions. Section 106 requires the code official to determine compliance with any state professional registration laws as they apply to the preparation of construction documents. [Read more here](#) from the PMG Code Notes.



ICC Evaluation Services updates

Saudi Building Code National Committee and ICC-ES enter Memorandum of Understanding

The ICC Evaluation Service ([ICC-ES](#)), the globally renowned leader in product evaluation and other conformity assessment services, and the Saudi Building Code National Committee ([SBCNC](#)), responsible

for the Saudi Building Code and ensuring building safety in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) agreeing to leverage ICC-ES solutions for evaluating new and innovative building products intended for installation in the KSA. Under the terms of the MOU, SBCNC will rely on the robust product evaluations performed for the production of Evaluation Service Reports (ESRs) to consider the use of evaluated innovative building products in KSA. ICC-ES has already expanded its scope of services to include evaluation to the Saudi Building Code, in addition to the International Codes (I-Codes). [Read more here](#).

Three ways the ICC Evaluation Service helps reduce the built environment's carbon footprint

There has been an increasing focus on sustainable construction practices and reducing the environmental impact of buildings over the past several years. The [International Code Council Evaluation Service](#) (ICC-ES) plays a crucial role in this movement by offering a comprehensive suite of services focused on verifying environmental and other performance measures. Through its expertise and collaboration with industry organizations, ICC-ES facilitates the verification of [Environmental Product Declarations](#) (EPDs) while simultaneously ensuring innovative materials and products meet compliance with building codes and standards. EPDs quantify the environmental attributes of a product across its life cycle, allowing for transparency and comparison within specific product types. [Read more here](#).



ICC Community Development Solutions update

Municipity® Program of Work: Work Orders and Maintenance makes tracking issues more effective

The Work Orders and Maintenance program of work allows you to track municipal work and resources effectively. You'll have the functionality to create, assign and track work orders and maintenance items on various parent entities. Create, assign, and track one-off Work Order Items, as well as set up recurring maintenance items, (including for third parties). Track stockpiles of time and material used for Work Order Completion, as well as generate invoices based on stockpile transactions. Generate bulk reminder letters for upcoming maintenance items and more. Learn more by [watching this video](#) or join an [Municipity Overview Webinar](#) on **July 19 at 1 p.m. Eastern/ 10 a.m. Pacific**.

'Independent Alliance of the Electrical Industry' rebrand initiative reflects growth, evolution, mission

The International Association of Electrical Inspectors (IAEI), a leading voice for electrical safety, recently announces its rebranding initiative, unveiling a new corporate brand as the Independent Alliance of the Electrical Industry, effective January 1, 2024. This strategic decision reflects the company's growth, evolution and commitment to innovation within the electrical safety space. The renaming of the International Association of Electrical Inspectors to the Independent Alliance of the Electrical Industry is part of a comprehensive rebranding effort that aims to align the company's visual identity, messaging and values with its current and future objectives. [Read more here](#).