



City of San Antonio

Office of Sustainability

August 10, 2020

2019 Group B Appeals Board
c/o Mike Pfeiffer
Senior Vice President of Technical Services
mpfeiffer@iccsafe.org

Greg Wheeler
CBO President
International Code Council
gwheeler@iccsafe.org

Dominic Sims
CEO
International Code Council
Dsims@iccsafe.org

Re: 2021 Energy Conservation Code updates

Dear Mr. Pfeiffer, Mr. Wheeler, and Mr. Sims,

In October 2019, the City of San Antonio adopted its first Climate Action & Adaptation Plan, committing the community and municipality to reach carbon neutrality by 2050. Energy use in buildings is the largest contributor to our greenhouse gas inventory, at 48%. Prior to the pandemic, San Antonio was characterized as one of the fastest growing cities in the nation, and though construction starts may have slowed temporarily, growth is anticipated to continue with the population nearly doubling to 2.5 million by 2040. For over a decade, the City of San Antonio has led by example by improving its own facilities through its Energy Efficiency Fund, a revolving fund that finances energy improvements through rebates achieved from the utility. We therefore applaud the proposed advancements to the 2021 International Energy Conservation Code by 10% that would improve new commercial and building construction throughout the greater region.

The City of San Antonio local government's voting delegates represent Development Services (who has the responsibility of enforcing code) and the Office of Sustainability (who has the responsibility for leading the implementation of the climate plan and who manages the Energy Efficiency Fund.) We encourage you to uphold the outcomes of this voting process so that local governments can work together with residents and local businesses to advance energy efficiency, save money, and mitigate the effects of climate change.

We further support the IECC proposals that increase flexibility in buildings to allow electricity as a choice: both in how occupants power appliances and how they power their vehicles. In addition to reducing building energy consumption, San Antonio's climate plan prioritizes the reduction of transportation consumption through the acceleration of electric vehicle adoption. Requiring EV charging readiness in new construction not only future-proofs buildings, but also supports emerging technology and consumer choice – good for building owners, tenants and residents.

As regulating the energy use in buildings is an essential strategy for reaching our community's greenhouse gas reduction goals, we request that the International Code Council support the original 2021 IECC votes so that we can achieve more effective outcomes. Time is of the essence.

Sincerely,

Douglas Melnick
Chief Sustainability Officer