REACH CODE NEWS BRIEF: APRIL 2026

2025 ENERGY CODE RESOURCES FROM THE LOCAL ENERGY CODES TEAM



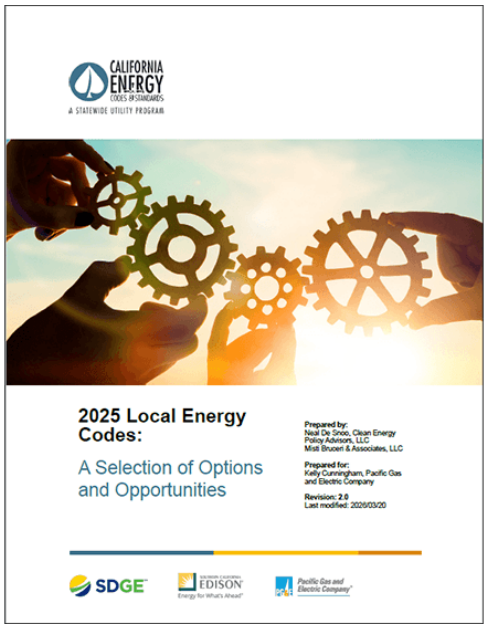
UPCOMING WEBINAR: RESULTS FOR 2025 MULTIFAMILY COST-EFFECTIVENESS STUDIES

Join the Local Energy Codes team **Thursday, May 21, 2026 from 9:00-11:00 am** as the technical team presents results for both the Multifamily New Construction and Alterations cost-effectiveness analyses.

The team will provide an overview of each study, measure specifications and cost and savings impacts. Attendees will learn about the building prototypes, analysis assumptions and methodology, as well as the measures and measure packages analyzed, and the estimated savings impacts relative to the minimum state requirements.

Both studies analyze the impacts of improving the efficiency of a five-story multifamily building with nonresidential space on the ground floor and 88 dwelling units above. The new construction study also analyzes a three-story multifamily 36-unit loaded corridor style building, while the alterations study analyzes a two-story garden style building with eight dwelling units. Both studies evaluate measures and measure package options in all 16 California climate zones (CZs).

Register for the webinar here.



2025 EDITION OF REACH CODES OPTIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES NOW AVAILABLE!

The Local Energy Codes team has recently published its Options and Opportunities resource for the 2025 Energy Code, focusing on specific areas for reach code development, including:

- Efficient Design: (applied at time of building permit): reduce energy and carbon intensity of building operations through efficient design and controls
- Transportation/Mobility: increase infrastructure available to enable transition to electric vehicles
- Operational Emissions: (applied on a schedule): disclose key energy use information in both residential and nonresidential buildings and/or install upgrades to reduce energy and water use and GHG emissions
- Embodied Carbon: reduce energy and carbon intensity of material manufacture and transport; increase reuse of existing materials
- Water Efficiency: reduce energy used to heat and transport water and for other indoor and outdoor uses

The report is available free of charge here.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 5: California Air Resources Board: Clean Transportation Equity Incentives Symposium, Sacramento

May 7: I-REN C&S Training: Residential HVAC Sizing and Duct Design (2025 Code)

May 13: BayREN C&S Training: 2025 Energy Code Changes – Multifamily

May 13: California Energy Commission: Business Meeting

May 27: 3C-REN: Home Improvements for a Healthier, Resilient, and Clean-Energy Future

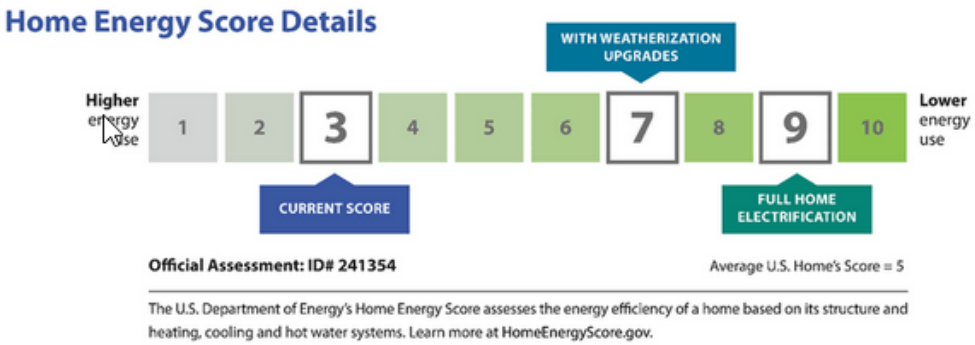
May 27: CCR-REN: 2025 CALGreen

May 27-28: California Green Building Conference. Berkeley

May 27-28: California Water Efficiency Partnership Peer to Peer event, Napa.



NEW THIS MONTH!



Where Your Energy Dollars Go[3]

Most of your home's energy goes to heating and cooling. Weatherization upgrades can dramatically reduce energy waste, while electrification eliminates your gas bill.

Fuel Type	ESTIMATED CURRENT USE	WITH WEATHERIZATION UPGRADES	FULL HOME ELECTRIFICATION
Electric	$2,434	$2,367	$3,609
Natural Gas	$1,332	$815	$0
Other	$0	$0	$0
Renewable Generation	N/A	N/A	N/A
ESTIMATED YEARLY COST:	$3,766	$3,182	$3,609
Estimated Yearly Energy Savings:		$584	$157

HOME ENERGY SCORE PROGRAM EXPANDS STATEWIDE

The Home Energy Score California program supports homeowners and building professionals by providing a consistent, statewide approach to understanding home energy performance. Developed by the US Department of Energy and the National Labs, the program’s scoring tool provides homeowners, homebuyers and renters with comparable, credible information about a home's energy use and potential upgrades. It measures how efficiently a home uses energy — from its structure to its heating, cooling, and hot-water systems — and rates it on a 1-10 scale. A score of one, for instance, represents a home that uses more energy than most homes and could benefit from efficiency upgrades while a home that scores ten represents a residence that uses less energy than 90% of homes.

To participate, a homeowner contacts a certified assessor who then schedules a home inspection. During this approximately one-hour session, the assessor collects more than 50 data points about the home’s construction, size, appliances, and more. They will inspect any attics, basements, crawlspaces and exterior during the session as well as the size of the home, and more. While the basic inspection does not include diagnostic testing (e.g., blower door test or duct blasting), these can often be added for an additional fee.

The occupant then receives a report showing the inspection results as well as actions that can be taken to improve the home's energy performance. The program is currently voluntary (except in the cities of Berkeley and Piedmont where a score is required at the time a home is listed for sale), and a $250 rebate is available to help cover the cost of the score. Of course, rebates may also be available for the cost of any recommended upgrades, depending on programs available through the relevant jurisdiction or utility.

In its 2024-2027 Business Plan, the CPUC approved the statewide expansion of the program from its current Bay Area focus. Administered by the Bay Area Regional Energy Network (BayREN) and funded by customers of the four major IOUs (Pacific Gas & Electric, Southern California Edison, San Diego Gas & Electric, and SoCalGas), the statewide expansion launched in January 2026. At this time, it is available to customers of these IOUs.

The program is actively seeking regional partners and recruiting certified assessors. The statewide program website offers information on how individuals can become certified assessors and the program will be conducting in person recruitment events, beginning with an initial event scheduled in May with the City of San Luis Obispo.

For more information, visit Home Energy Score California. To discuss assessor recruitment activities or other specific aspects, email the program lead, Emily Alvarez of StopWaste.



Message paid for by customers.

This program is funded by California utility customers and administered by Pacific Gas and Electric Company, San Diego Gas & Electric Company (SDG&E®) and Southern California Edison Company under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission and in support of the California Energy Commission.

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OTHER REACH CODE NEWS BRIEFS

October 2026 September 2026 August 2026

Archives