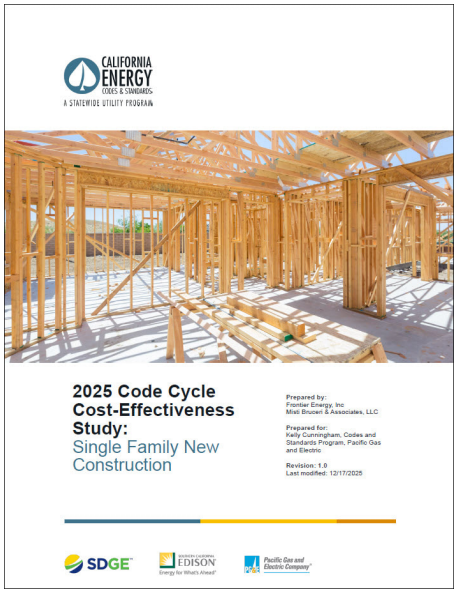
REACH CODE NEWS BRIEF: JANUARY 2026

NOW AVAILABLE! NEW RESOURCES FOR THE 2025 CODE CYCLE



PRELIMINARY RESULTS FOR 2025 CODE CYCLE SINGLE FAMILY NEW CONSTRUCTION

Preliminary results for cost effectiveness analysis of new single family new construction are now available from the Statewide Local Energy Codes team.

Analysis was done for the following measures using a 2,400 ft^2 prototype:

- High efficiency windows
- Reduced infiltration
- Buried radial ducts
- Increased ceiling insulation
- Compact hot water distribution

This preliminary analysis focused on cost-effectiveness for the 2,400 ft^2 “standard” sized home. The complete analysis will also include results for the 625 ft^2 Accessory Dwelling Unit prototype. The analysis results use the Efficiency Long Term System Cost (LSCe) compliance metric as it more effectively encourages high performance designs and electrification than the Source Energy compliance metric in the 2025 code.

The Memo containing the preliminary results is available on the localenergycodes.com site here.

The full report is anticipated in late April.



NEW CALGREEN FACT SHEETS OFFER DETAILED GUIDANCE FOR 2025 CODE CYCLE

The Statewide Local Energy Codes team has published three new Fact Sheets on CALGreen 2025. The fact sheets offer detailed guidance on different aspects of the code provisions for the 2025 cycle.

CALGreen Basics provides an overview of CALGreen 2025 in an FAQ style format. This includes exploring both the mandatory and voluntary provisions.

2025 Guidance for Selecting CALGreen Compliant Materials offers detailed information regarding material procurement for nonresidential, including a complete discussion for Division 4 and Division 5.

2025 Embodied Carbon and LCA Software provides a deep dive into the LCA software options for teams using a Whole Building Life Cycle Assessment (WBLCA) option to comply with the CALGreen embodied carbon requirements.

The Fact Sheets are available on both CALGreenInfo.com and LocalEnergyCodes.com free of charge.

2028 ENERGY CODE WEBINARS COMING IN FEBRUARY!

Join the Codes and Standards Enhancement (CASE) Team to learn about upcoming code proposals for the 2028 Building Energy Efficiency Standards:

- **February 17:** Nonresidential Covered Processes
- **February 24:** Controlled Environment Horticulture & Nonresidential Solar Pool Heating
- **February 26:** Nonresidential HVAC

Visit title24stakeholders.com for complete details and information.



UPCOMING EVENTS

February 4: 3C-REN Training: 2025 Energy Code in Practice: Single Family Residential

February 9: CivicWell: 2026 CivicWell Policy Bridge. Sacramento

February 10: 3C-REN Training: 2025 California Energy Code & Passive House

February 11: BayREN C&S Training: 2025 Energy Code Changes – Nonresidential

February 11: California Energy Commission: Business Meeting

February 12: I-REN C&S Training: Introduction to the Energy Code

February 16-17: USGBC: Green Schools Conference. San Diego

February 18: USGBC-CA: Building California: From LEED v5 to Contractor's Commitment and CalGreen

February 19: Sustain SoCal: Regional Readiness & Resilience. UCI Beall Applied Innovation, Irvine.

February 26: I-REN C&S Training: 2025 Energy Code Single Family Updates

March 4-5: Energy Code Ace Conference. Irwindale CA





THE BENEFITS OF FLEXPATH: A CONVERSATION WITH MARIN COUNTY'S MARK CHHABRIA

About Mark Chhabria

Mark has been with the Marin County Sustainability Team since 2017 and currently leads the County's Green Building programs. His work focuses on advancing local green building policy, promoting consistency across Marin's cities and towns, and ensuring building regulations align with the County's climate goals. A Marin native, Mark lives in San Rafael and brings a strong community perspective to his work. He holds an MBA in Sustainable Enterprise from Dominican University of California and a BA in Political Science from UCLA.

Q: Tell us a little about Marin County's experience with the FlexPath approach, Mark.

A: Sure, the County adopted its first FlexPath reach code in 2022 and began implementation and compliance efforts in 2023. The triggering threshold was any addition or alteration project for a single family home that exceeded 750 ft^2. We had worked very closely with a wide range of stakeholders in the policy development process, including developers, residents, building departments both at the county level and at jurisdictions within the county, and local staff from other jurisdictions as well. Consistency across the county was a very important factor for builders so they could rely on similar approaches for projects located in different jurisdictions.

In 2025, the County team looked at the experience to date since the first FlexPath measure adoption to assess how this approach could be more impactful. We realized that the 500-750 ft^2 footprint for additions and alterations was where the most activity was and by updating the triggering threshold to 500 ft^2, we could extend the benefits of the FlexPath approach to as many as 50% more projects. This would also improve consistency across the county as several cities and towns have adopted a similar threshold in their FlexPath ordinances.

Q: What are the biggest benefits to the FlexPath approach?

A: The flexibility, of course, is primary. Homeowners can choose from a menu of energy efficiency (e.g. insulation, PV), electric readiness, and/or electrification (e.g. heat pump, induction stove) measures that have been developed and proven by the statewide program to be cost-effective. So it's easier for homeowners to work within their budgets. For instance, a homeowner doing a smaller addition with a smaller budget may look more closely at the energy measures and select options such as attic or wall insulation, lighting or air sealing. Likewise, homeowners with larger projects and more substantial budgets could determine that the fuel substitution measures involving replacing appliances with heat pumps or induction cooktops would be appropriate for their needs.

Another benefit is the opportunity for county-wide collaboration, again going back to the consistency factor. By actively working with other jurisdictions, we are able to develop and implement very harmonious reach codes that simplify compliance for builders. While every measure might not be exactly the same the framework is so consistent that builders and remodelers can proceed with greater certainty and understanding of the overall compliance process.

Q: Have there been any challenges with the implementation and compliance process?

A: Well, there are always challenges but the team has worked hard to develop, maintain and update support materials for homeowners and builders. For instance, we realized that some of the earlier checklists could be improved for clarity. We have a robust resource area online for both education and compliance materials. We also offer a Green Building Decision Tool to help homeowners identify the forms and checklists they will need for their project.

Q: What are other aspects of the approach that would be helpful for other jurisdictions to know?

A: One of the most important aspects for us is to maintain ongoing and open lines of communication and collaboration with other jurisdictions across the County. We invest time and effort in coordinating with cities and towns across the county to ensure the highest level of consistency possible. For instance, our Marin Climate and Energy Partnership's Reach Code Committee meets monthly and sustainability staff from cities and the county join to collaborate on implementation materials. Similarly, we participate in the Marin County Codes Advisory Board, a group of building department staff from across the county who meet monthly. This commitment maintains trust in the important stakeholder relationships that help ensure the reach code is ultimately successful.

Finally, there are so many resources available for other jurisdictions and regions who are interested in exploring FlexPath approaches. Some of these resources are available at the statewide level, but many are resources we've developed for Marin County that could serve as useful models for other regions. For more information, visit the Marin County sustainability webpages or email me at energy@marincounty.gov.



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OTHER REACH CODE NEWS BRIEFS

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