FACT SHEET: FLEXIBLE PATH REACH CODES

CALIFORNIA ENERGY CODES & STANDARDS
A STATEWIDE UTILITY PROGRAM

FLEXIBLE PATH REACH CODES OFFER VALUE FOR EXISTING HOMES

Many California cities require that **newly constructed buildings** exceed the State Building Energy Efficiency Standards (Title 24, Article 6). Such reach codes, which are adopted as local amendments to the State Code, are designed to reduce energy consumption and related greenhouse gas emissions.

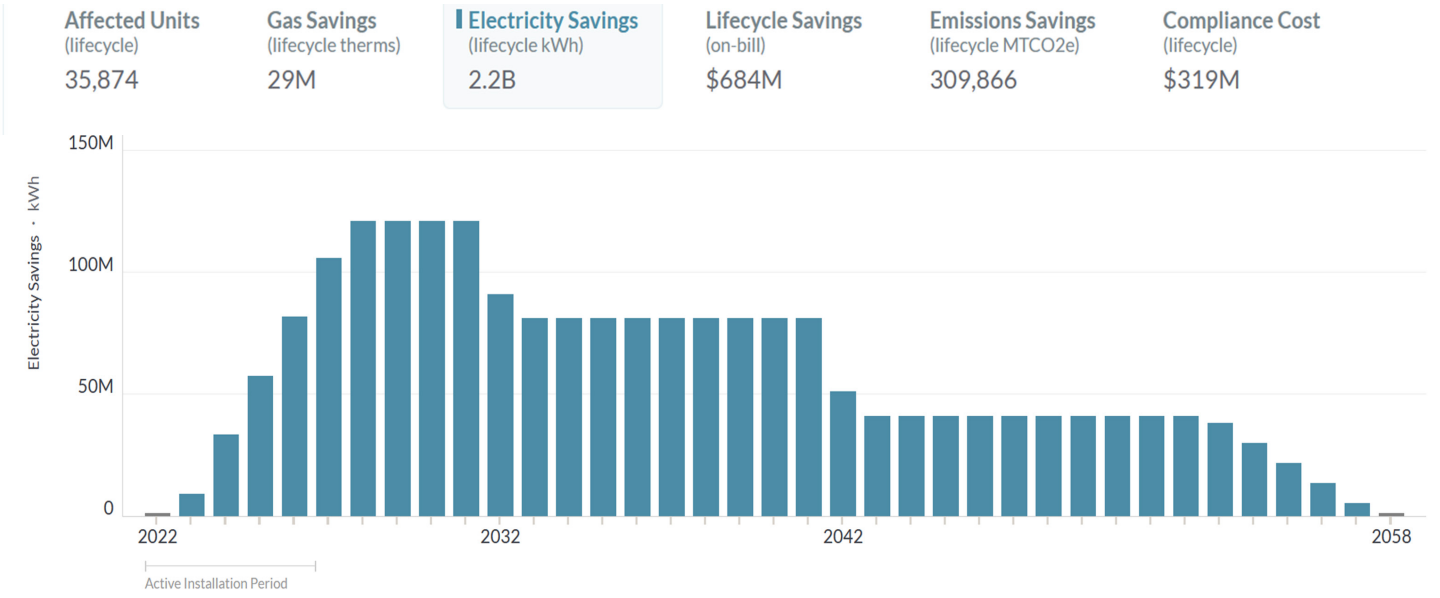
Reach codes can also be applied to alterations and additions to **existing buildings**, but setting standards that are simultaneously **simple, effective, and applicable to the range of existing conditions** has been challenging — until recently.

The Statewide Reach Codes Program has developed capabilities in its online tool, the ***Cost Effectiveness Explorer***, that offer local governments an opportunity to design a relatively simple reach code for existing residential buildings that is customized to the local climate and housing stock vintage.

This **Flexible Path** allows homeowners and contractors to select from a weighted menu of measures to achieve compliance. This affords them the opportunity to pick measures that best suit their plans and values. The approach consists of a target score and a menu of individual measures with points weighted by site energy savings. Applicants may select a set of measures that meet or exceed the target.

What is the Cost-Effectiveness Explorer?

A no-cost, online tool, the Cost-Effectiveness Explorer helps local jurisdictions evaluate cost-effectiveness results, create policies, and forecast impacts. The graph below illustrates the citywide potential electricity savings from a policy targeting new construction in a large jurisdiction.



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Local jurisdictions may adjust how comprehensive the requirements are by adjusting the target, subject to a cap representing the maximum amount of savings available from all cost-effective measures. The advantages of this approach are that it offers flexible compliance options and is grounded in bill-payer cost-effectiveness. And because it is based on site energy savings, this approach places a high value on efficient electric heat pump technologies. The policy may be structured to make certain measures mandatory (similar to Table 2).

An applicant may install any combination of efficiency, solar and electrification measures that meet or exceed the target value.

The Explorer produces a table of all available measures, including those that are not cost-effective, that are weighted by site energy savings, specific to each climate zone and home vintage.

The Codes and Standards program offers support for adoption and implementation, including a model ordinance with detailed measure descriptions and various exceptions, FAQs, a permit application checklist, and guidance for permitting staff.

Email info@localenergycodes.com for more information or assistance today!

Table 1. Example of a Flexible Path set of target scores.The Target Score is a user-defined fraction of the total site energy savings for all cost-effective retrofit measures. Separate target scores could apply based on the scope of the proposed project.

Single Family	Building Vintage		
	Pre-1978	1979-1991	1992-2010
Tier 1 Target	7	6	4
Tier 2 Target	14	12	7

Table 2. Example of a Flexible Path measure package.

SIngle Family	Building Vintage		
Measures	Pre-1978	1979-1991	1992-2010
Efficiency Measure "X"	Mandatory		
Efficiency Measure "Y"	2	2	2
Electric Appliance Measure "A"	8	5	2
Electric Appliance Measure "B"	13	10	4
Electric-Readiness	Mandatory		
Solar PV	12	12	12

Want to learn more? Watch the ***Cost-Effectiveness Explorer video***.

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.