

“Green is Mainstream: Building Codes, Energy Efficiency and Best Practices in Green Building”



The facts speak for themselves. Home buyers and remodeling clients look for enduring quality in their homes and are seeking companies and individuals with knowledge and experience in green building and energy efficient construction. Sustaining this trend is that Texas per capita residential electricity use is significantly higher than the national average, and the average price paid for residential electricity is more than the national average.

In addition to consumer demands, many regulatory changes and code updates related to green building are still occurring at all levels of government. For example, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act passed by Congress in 2008 requires all states to enact the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC), and Congress is debating a bill intended to implement a series of building code changes leading toward zero-energy buildings.

Here in Texas, the State Energy Conservation Office (SECO) has met with a wide variety of groups interested in energy codes and energy efficient construction. The purpose of the meeting was to openly discuss updating the energy code requirements in Texas. As a stakeholder at the meeting, the Texas Association of Builders (TAB) identified several legal and institutional challenges involved in mandating the 2009 codes. Among the issues identified by TAB:

- The lack of available home energy raters and testers in all growing areas of Texas needed to perform the air leakage testing required by the 2009 codes
- Inadequately trained municipal inspectors and plan review technicians
- The need for more builder training.

Despite these issues, a formal rule change from SECO that will require the 2009 energy codes for all construction thereby making builders test homes, alter designs and purchase new products is imminent.

The **“Green is Mainstream: Building Codes, Energy Efficiency and Best Practices in Green Building”** training class presented by TAB in partnership with SECO, the Energy Systems Laboratory at Texas A&M University and the Railroad Commission of Texas provides the critical information builders need to keep pace in today’s market.

Teaching the course are respected construction professionals from the Texas A&M College of Architecture and the International Polytechnic Institute, Inc. The instructors provide well rounded information on multiple topics including the 2009 building code requirements, framing, insulation, roof systems, mechanical systems, fixtures and appliances. Each participant receives a course book containing more than 200 course slides and related green building information.

To schedule this class, contact Lorraine Urey at TAB.
For technical questions relating to the class, contact Paul Cauduro at TAB.