

Michigan State Energy Code Enactment, Enforcement, and Resources



Implementation and Enforcement Overview

The following guide is an overview of how the State of Michigan implements and enforces statewide building energy codes. The guide is intended to provide Tribes with an understanding of their states' authority processes and procedures for enacting and enforcing codes.

Michigan Enacts Statewide Energy Code with Decentralized Enforcement:

- State enacts the code
- Local jurisdictions enforce the code
- State provides oversight
- Multiple agencies and utilities support compliance

Tribal-Specific Pathways to Enact Michigan Energy Code Standards

Tribal governments are sovereign and not automatically subject to Michigan state building or energy codes on trust lands. However, Tribes may choose to enact Michigan codes, in whole or in part, to ensure safety, interoperability with surrounding jurisdictions, and eligibility for funding programs.

Tribal governments in Michigan can:

- Enact the Michigan code directly
- Enact "model" International Code Councils (ICC), International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) independently
- Modify codes to reflect Tribal priorities
- Use state resources for training and technical assistance
- Coordinate with nearby local jurisdictions for expertise

See the [Options for Michigan Tribal Nations to Enact Energy Codes](#) resource for information on Tribal options for code enactment.

Michigan Code Specifics:

Michigan enacts energy codes as part of its statewide construction code system, updated periodically to reflect newer model codes.

Current State Energy Code

- **Residential:** Based on the **2015 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC)** with Michigan-specific amendments
- **Commercial:** 2021 IECC; Also reference **ASHRAE 90.1-2019** with amendments
- Applies to **new construction, additions, and major renovations statewide**

Michigan State Energy Code Effective and Enactment Dates

	Commercial 2021 IECC or ASHRAE 90.1-2019	Residential 2021 IECC
Effective Date	04/22/2025	02/08/2016
Enactment Date	12/23/2024	10/09/2015

How does Michigan Enact a State Energy Code?

Michigan enacts energy codes through the Bureau of Construction Codes (BCC), which reviews and updates the Michigan Uniform Energy Code (MUEC) every three years for commercial buildings and at least every six years for residential buildings. These updates typically incorporate national model codes like the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) and ASHRAE standards, along with state-specific amendments. Once finalized and enacted under the Stille-Derossett-Hale Single State Construction Code Act ([Public Act 230 of 1972](#)), these codes become mandatory for all new construction and major renovations statewide.

How the Process Works:

Legal Authority: The enactment process is governed by the Stille-Derossett-Hale Single State Construction Code Act, which provides the legal framework for the state to enforce building codes uniformly.

Review Cycle: The BCC is responsible for the regular evaluation of energy standards. They review cost-effectiveness and efficiency improvements, often comparing them to the latest model codes (e.g., IECC or ASHRAE 90.1).

Stakeholder Input: The process usually includes public comments and feedback from industry stakeholders, energy efficiency advocates, and building professionals.

Implementation: After the state enacts the updated code, it applies to new construction throughout all jurisdictions in Michigan. Local enforcement agencies then utilize these standards to review building plans and conduct inspections.

Michigan Code Enactment Authority and Process**Lead Enactment Agency:**

The following departments and agencies oversee the code enactment process:

- Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA)
- Bureau of Construction Codes (BCC)
- State Construction Code Commission (SCCC)

Code Update Cycle:

- Commercial: approximately every 3 years
- Residential: at least every 6 years

State of Michigan Energy Code Enforcement

Michigan enforces its building energy codes primarily through local governments. While the Michigan Bureau of Construction Codes (BCC), part of the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA), reviews, oversees, and updates the state code standards every three years, enforcement takes place at the municipal level. Building officials and inspectors in these areas review plans, issue permits, and conduct on-site inspections to ensure compliance with insulation, lighting, HVAC, and building-envelope requirements before granting occupancy.

The Enforcement Process Includes:

Plan Review: During the permitting process, developers are required to submit documentation, such as COMcheck reports for commercial projects, demonstrating their design complies with energy efficiency standards.

Field Inspections: Local building inspectors ensure that materials and systems—such as insulation, windows, and mechanical equipment—are installed in accordance with the approved plans and state code.

Functional Performance Testing: For commercial projects, new requirements may require functional performance testing to verify that systems (HVAC, lighting, water heating, and building envelopes) function as intended.

State Oversight: The Bureau of Construction Codes offers the regulatory framework and oversight to ensure that local entities follow the mandatory state building codes.

State of Michigan Code Enforcement Structure

Michigan uses a statewide code with a local enforcement model.

Primary Enforcement Authorities:

Local Governments (Primary Enforcement): local building departments are central to enforcement.

- Tribes, cities, villages, and townships enforce building and energy codes through permitting and inspections.
- Required to enforce the state construction code within their jurisdiction.

State Enforcement When Local Authority Is Absent:

- LARA Bureau of Construction Codes enforces codes in areas without local enforcement authority.
- LARA provides code interpretations and oversight of local authorities.

Permit-Based Compliance System

- Code compliance is verified through local or state plan review, inspections, and approval prior to occupancy.

Code Compliance and Implementation Support

Michigan coordinates multiple actors to improve code compliance.

Michigan Energy Codes Compliance Collaborative

- Convened by the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE)
- Includes builders, utilities, raters, code officials, and advocates
- Identifies barriers and opportunities to improve compliance
- Discusses proposals and amendments

Utility-funded field studies and training efforts also support implementation.

Key State Agencies and Roles

Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs

(LARA)—Has primary state construction code authority and responsibilities including:

- Code enactment and rulemaking
- Oversight of the enforcement system
- Licensing of building professionals
- Technical interpretations
- State enforcement where local jurisdiction does not exist

Bureau of Construction Codes (BCC) within LARA—direct program administration and functions including:

- Code administration
- Permitting and plan review (state jurisdiction areas)
- Inspector licensing
- Guidance to local officials

Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy

(EGLE)—has a support role (not enforcement) and provides:

- Energy policy support
- Compliance initiatives
- Technical collaboration efforts

Key Enactment and Enforcement Resources (MI)

State Resources

- [LARA Bureau of Construction Codes](#)—Energy Code Program
- [Michigan Construction Code Commission \(SCCC\)](#)
- [EGLE Energy Office / Compliance Collaborative](#)

Federal and National Resources Widely Used in Michigan

U.S. DOE Building Energy Codes Program

- Technical assistance
- Compliance tools (*REScheck, COMcheck)¹
- Training materials

International Code Council (ICC)

- Code publications
- Certification for inspectors and plan reviewers
- Training courses

RESNET (HERS Raters)

The Residential Energy Services Network (RESNET) is a non-profit organization that sets national standards for home energy ratings and energy efficiency.

- Third-party compliance testing
- Performance path verification

Utilities (DTE Energy, Consumers Energy)

- Training programs
- Incentives tied to energy code compliance
- Field studies and outreach

Sources:

[DOE, Building Energy Code Program, Michigan](#)

[Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance \(MEEA\), Michigan Building Energy Codes](#)

[Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy, Michigan Energy Codes Compliance Collaborative](#)

¹The project team is working on a REScheck and COMcheck resource for tribes. Once finalized, the resource will be posted to the hub [ITCMI](#).

*REScheck and COMcheck are free software tools created by the DOE that simplifies energy code compliance for residential and commercial buildings.

Michigan Tribal Code Initiative

Who We Are and How We Work

The Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan (ITCM) is a non-profit organization that serves as a forum and advocacy group for 12 federally recognized Native American Tribes in Michigan.

The Bay Mills Indian Community (BMIC) is a federally recognized Ojibwe Tribe located in Brimley, Michigan.

The Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (MEEA) is a collaborative network, promoting energy efficiency to optimize energy generation, reduce consumption, create jobs, and decrease carbon emissions in all Midwest communities.

Slipstream is a nonprofit that develops and scales energy efficiency programs with a focus on climate solutions for buildings.



For additional information or questions, contact:

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