



Newsletter / May 14, 2026

Q1 2026: Codes, Standards + New Construction

Highlights

ADVANCING CODES, STANDARDS AND NEW CONSTRUCTION ACROSS THE NORTHWEST

This quarter, Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (NEEA) staff continued to play a central role in shaping energy codes, standards and new construction practices across the Northwest, with significant progress at the state, regional and national levels. Multiple code development processes moved into critical review and adoption phases, while education, training and evaluation efforts expanded their reach and impact.

Several states advanced major code updates. Washington continued work toward finalizing the 2024 Washington State Energy Code—Commercial and Residential, with dozens of NEEA-supported proposals recommended for approval and new requirements positioning buildings to comply with the state’s Building Performance Standard. In Oregon, the 2026 Oregon Residential Specialty Code process moved forward, with NEEA staff actively supporting the review committee, submitting proposals and engaging stakeholders through the Oregon Code Collaborative. Idaho advanced its 2024 building codes package to the legislature, and Montana began reviewing the 2024 IECC while maintaining steady stakeholder engagement.

At the national level, the 2027 IECC development process progressed through its first public draft, with NEEA staff serving on key consensus committees and contributing multiple code change proposals to ensure Northwest perspectives are reflected. Looking ahead, NEEA also engaged early in discussions shaping the scope and structure of the 2030 IECC.

Finally, education and training remained a core focus. NEEA delivered and supported a broad slate of commercial and residential energy code trainings across the region, reaching thousands of practitioners through live events and on-demand resources. Usage of the Washington commercial code compliance webtool continued to grow, reflecting sustained demand for practical compliance support.

For Questions:

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For Energy Code Training Resources:

<https://betterbuiltnw.com/training#energy-code>

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Codes at a Glance

State	Sector	Code Version	Adopted Date	Effective Date
Idaho	Commercial	2018 IECC	4/2/2020	1/1/2021
	Residential	2018 IECC with weakening amendments	4/2/2020	1/1/2021
Montana	Commercial	2021 IECC (with mid-cycle weakening amendments)	6/6/2022	9/8/2022 (amended 9/21/2024)
	Residential	2021 IECC with weakening amendments	6/6/2022	9/8/2022
Oregon	Commercial	2025 OEESC (ASHRAE 90.1-2022 with weakening amendments)	1/1/2025	7/1/2025
	Residential	2023 Oregon Residential Specialty Code (ORSC) (custom state-developed code)	10/1/2023	4/1/2024
Washington	Commercial	2021 Washington State Energy Code (WSEC) (2021 IECC with strengthening amendments)	11/28/2023	3/15/2024
	Residential	2021 WSEC (2021 IECC with strengthening amendments)	11/28/2023	3/15/2024

Codes Updates

NATIONAL MODEL CODE / INTERNATIONAL ENERGY CONSERVATION CODE (IECC)

DESCRIPTION

The 2027 IECC development process is underway. The first round of code change proposals were submitted in late 2024, and approved changes were incorporated into the [2025 Public Comment Draft for the 2027 IECC](#). A second round of proposal submittal and review began in late-2025, and the 2027 IECC is expected to be finalized and published by the end of 2026 in alignment with the [schedule](#) posted on the International Code Council (ICC) website.

Looking ahead to the subsequent code cycle, scope and structure changes for 2030 IECC were proposed in January 2026. These changes include splitting the IECC into two separate codes and implementing cost-effectiveness requirements that limit the analysis horizon for proposed code changes to as little as seven years. An [opportunity for public comment](#) was provided through February 15, 2026, and the ICC Board of Directors [met in April](#) to consider the feedback it received. Ultimately, [the Board decided to proceed with the proposed new direction for the 2030 IECC](#). ICC also solicited applications for 2030 IECC review committee members which were due April 1.

GENERAL UPDATES

- In Q1 2026, the IECC Commercial and Residential Consensus Committees reconvened to process the second round of code change proposals. Nearly all proposals were fully reviewed and processed by the end of the quarter, and balloting on these final 2027 IECC changes is expected to begin in May.
- NEEA staff currently serve on the Commercial Consensus Committee, the Commercial HVAC subgroup and the Residential Modeling & Whole Building subgroup. As such, NEEA has a vote on all the proposals considered by these bodies and helps ensure that Northwest insights and perspectives are included in these discussions.
- NEEA submitted four code change proposals (three as lead proponent, one as a co-proponent) in the first round of 2027 IECC development. Of these, one proposal was voted for approval (with amendments) for inclusion in the 2027 IECC first draft. NEEA submitted one additional proposal for the second round of 2027 IECC development and it was disapproved.

DESCRIPTION

The 2024 Washington State Energy Code–Commercial (WSEC-C) update process is underway. Code change proposals were submitted in Q1 2025 and have since been under review. The 2024 WSEC-C is now [scheduled to be finalized in late 2026](#).

GENERAL UPDATES

- The State Building Code Council (SBCC) continues to work on developing a 2024 WSEC-C final draft, after which a public comment period will be opened to solicit any further input. The release of this draft, which has been delayed multiple times, is now expected to occur in May pending the result of the April 24 SBCC meeting.
- Dozens of the code change proposals submitted this cycle were developed by NEEA staff in collaboration with contractors and stakeholders. Of the roughly 40 proposals directly supported by NEEA, 36 were recommended for approval (either as submitted or with modifications) by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAG); the disapproved proposals typically had their intent achieved by other approved proposals. The approved proposals include efficiency improvements across a range of end uses, code language revisions to improve clarity and incorporate SBCC interpretations, and new requirements for metering and commissioning to help ensure new buildings subject to the state’s Building Performance Standard are well-positioned to comply with this policy.

EDUCATION + TRAINING

NEEA provides training and technical assistance on the current WSEC-C provisions. Training attendees and recipients of technical support include design and construction professionals, building officials, plan examiners, home builders, contractors, field inspectors and fire marshals.

Educational resources and trainings on the 2021 WSEC-C are available for on-demand viewing on NEEA's commercial [WSEC website](#).

The WSEC-C trainings delivered in Q1 2026 are listed in the table below.

<i>Training Topic</i>	<i>Course Length</i>	<i>Attendees</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Date</i>
<i>Navigating the 2021 WSEC-C for Existing Building Upgrades</i>	1.5 hours	179	Webinar	2/5/2026
<i>WABO AEI Conference: Streamlining the Process for Energy code Plan Review</i>	8 hours	48	Lynnwood	3/18/2026

CODE COMPLIANCE WEBTOOL

The 2021 WSEC-C edition of the code compliance webtool was launched in Q1 2024 and has nearly 13,000 registered users. The compliance webtool can be found on NEEA's [WA commercial energy code website](#).

WASHINGTON STATE / RESIDENTIAL CODE

DESCRIPTION

The 2024 Washington State Energy Code — Residential (WSEC-R) update process is currently underway. Code change proposals were due on May 19, 2025, and have since been under review. The 2024 WSEC-R is now [scheduled to be finalized in late 2026](#).

GENERAL UPDATES

- The State Building Code Council (SBCC) continues to work on developing a 2024 WSEC-R final draft, after which a public comment period will be opened to solicit any further input. The release of this draft, which has been delayed multiple times, is now expected to occur in May.
- About 16 of the code change proposals submitted this cycle were developed by NEEA staff or in collaboration with stakeholders. Of the 14 proposals submitted directly by NEEA and NEEA contractors, 10 were recommended for approval (either as submitted or with modifications) by the TAG. These approved proposals include efficiency improvements across a range of end uses, measures to improve compliance and savings realization, and adoption of a new compliance path based on home energy rating.

EDUCATION + TRAINING

NEEA provides training and technical assistance on the current WSEC-R provisions. Training attendees and recipients of technical support include design and construction professionals, building officials, plan examiners, home builders, contractors, field inspectors and fire marshals.

The WSEC-R on-demand trainings, training webinar schedule and additional resources can be found on the [Washington State University Energy Program](#) website.

The WSEC-R live trainings delivered in Q1 2026 and on-demand trainings are listed in the table below. On-demand training attendance numbers are cumulative starting from January 1, 2026.

Training Topic	Course Length	Attendees	Location	Date
<i>Energy Code Overview Webinar</i>	1.5 hours	16	Webinar	1/14/2026
<i>Energy Code Overview Webinar</i>	1 hour	17	Webinar	2/11/2026
<i>Energy Code Overview Webinar</i>	1 hour	19	Webinar	3/11/2026
<i>WABO Conference - Energy Code Update and Compliance Tools</i>	8 hours	76	Lynnwood	3/19/2026
<i>2018 WSEC-R: Summary of the 2018 WA State Residential Energy Code</i>	10 mins	36	On Demand	Various
<i>2018 WSEC-R: Residential Energy Code Compliance</i>	2 hours	1	On Demand	Various
<i>2018 WSEC-R: Build Tight & Ventilate Right</i>	1 hour	11	On Demand	Various
<i>2018 WSEC-R: Balanced Ventilation with ERVs & HRVs</i>	1 hour	13	On Demand	Various
<i>2018 WSEC-R: Efficient Building Envelope Options</i>	1 hour	8	On Demand	Various
<i>2018 WSEC-R: Heating & Air Conditioning System Inside Options</i>	14 mins	20	On Demand	Various
<i>Using the C3 Calculator to Calculate Ventilation Rates</i>	10 mins	83	On Demand	Various
<i>Filling out the Compliance Certificate for Ventilation Systems</i>	10 mins	76	On Demand	Various

FIELD STUDY + EVALUATION

NEEA has selected Industrial Economics (IEc) to conduct the next Washington Residential Code Compliance Evaluation, which will focus on the 2021 WSEC. Specifically, this project will:

- Assess statewide compliance among single-family homes built under the 2021 WSEC
- Provide statewide findings regarding primary space and water heating fuel.
- Provide an analysis of builders' choices regarding heating system and duct installation.

A final report is expected in late 2026 or early 2027.

OREGON STATE / COMMERCIAL CODE

DESCRIPTION

Oregon bases its commercial energy code on ASHRAE Standard 90.1 and begins its code update process within six months of publication of a new version of 90.1. The 2025 version of 90.1 was published in early 2026. Learn more on the ASHRAE [website](#).

GENERAL UPDATES

ASHRAE 90.1-2025 has now been published, which prompts the state to begin review of this new standard by late 2026.

OREGON STATE / RESIDENTIAL CODE

DESCRIPTION

The 2026 Oregon Residential Specialty Code (ORSC) update process is underway. The [2026 ORSC](#) is scheduled to be finalized in late 2026 and to go into effect April 1, 2027.

GENERAL UPDATES

- In Q1 2026, the Building Codes Division's (BCD)'s advisory boards met to review and act upon the [proposed energy code changes for 2026 ORSC](#). The [Residential and Manufactured Structures Board](#) voted to approve these draft changes, with one minor amendment, at its February 2026 meeting. The (nonvoting) [Construction Industry Energy Board](#) reviewed the draft 2026 ORSC changes at its March 2026 meeting.
- NEEA staff provided technical guidance to the 2026 ORSC development process in multiple ways:
 - Participated in the 2026 ORSC working group that provided comments on the preliminary draft.
 - Convened an Oregon Code Collaborative to engage and inform a diverse set of stakeholders about this draft and opportunities to participate in the 2026 ORSC development process.

- Submitted four energy code proposals and helped guide other proposals submitted by its partners.
- Participated in the code review committee that BCD convened to review energy code change proposals submitted for 2026 ORSC.
- Continues to assist BCD in forming and vetting its assumptions for code development.

EDUCATION + TRAINING

NEEA partners with organizations across the state to provide technical assistance and training on the current and upcoming Oregon residential and commercial energy codes. Training attendees include design and construction professionals, building officials, plan examiners, home builders, contractors, field inspectors and fire marshals.

In addition, the Oregon BCD provides trainings on both the [residential energy code \(ORSC\)](#) and the [commercial energy code \(OEESC\)](#) on its website.

Oregon BCD released a new training on [COMcheck Web basic training for 2025 OEESC](#).

The Oregon energy code trainings delivered in Q1 2026 are listed in the table below.

<i>Training Topic</i>	<i>Course Length</i>	<i>Attendees</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Date</i>
<i>Energy and Mechanical Code Training - Mechanical Contractors, Building Departments</i>	2 hours	30	Springfield City Hall, Virtual	2/25/2026
<i>2026 OBOA Virtual Education Days: Oregon Commercial Energy Code Updates & Best Practices; What's Changing</i>	6 hours	50	Webinar	3/3/2026

FIELD STUDY + EVALUATION

NEEA has selected Industrial Economics (IEc) to conduct the next Oregon Residential Code Compliance Evaluation, which will focus on the 2023 ORSC. Specifically, this project will:

- Assess statewide compliance among single-family homes built under the 2023 ORSC.
- Provide statewide findings regarding primary space and water heating fuel.
- Provide an analysis of builders' choices regarding heating system and duct installation.

A final report is expected in late 2026 or early 2027.

IDAHO STATE

DESCRIPTION

The Idaho Building Code Board (BCB) has completed its review of the 2024 International Residential Code, International Building Code and the IECC for potential adoption.

GENERAL UPDATES

- In Q1 2026, the state legislature took up the 2024 building codes rules package developed by the Building Code Board (BCB) over the past several years ([see docket 24-3930-2502](#)). This 2024 I-codes update, including an amended version of the 2024 IECC, was [approved unanimously](#) by the Senate Commerce committee but [failed to pass](#) the House Business committee. While the proposed amendments would have done little to improve energy efficiency for new homes, the code update would have provided a substantial improvement for commercial buildings. With this year's legislative session having since concluded, Idaho's energy code will not be updated until next year at the earliest.

EDUCATION + TRAINING

NEEA provides training and technical assistance on the current Idaho energy code. Training attendees and recipients of technical support include design and construction professionals, building officials, plan examiners, home builders, contractors and field inspectors.

More information about the Idaho building energy code, trainings and resources can be found at [the Idaho Energy Code website](#).

The Idaho energy code trainings delivered in Q1 2026 are listed in the table below.

<i>Training Topic</i>	<i>Course Length</i>	<i>Attendees</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Date</i>
<i>Energy Code Training - IDABO Education Conference</i>	1 hour	20	Boise	1/21/2026
<i>Effective Air Sealing, Energy Code Training</i>	4 hours	6	Rexburg	1/26/2026
<i>Duct and Envelope Tightness Testing Certification</i>	8 hours	1	Webinar	2/3/2026
<i>Air Sealing and Attic Ventilation</i>	2 hours	3	Boise	3/2/2026
<i>Air Balance Certification Training</i>	8 hours	2	Webinar	3/4/2026
<i>Energy Code Training</i>	4 hours	6	Mountain Home	3/16/2026
<i>Energy Code Training</i>	4 hours	12	Moscow	3/24/2026

MONTANA STATE

DESCRIPTION

The Montana Building Code Council (BCC) has started to review the 2024 IECC for potential adoption.

GENERAL UPDATES

- The Department of Labor and Industry has posted its [proposed amendments to the 2024 IECC](#) as well as the other I-codes, though no official deadline for feedback was provided to stakeholders.
- These proposed amendments capture most of the residential energy efficiency improvements provided by the 2024 IECC but eliminate much of the analogous advancements for commercial buildings. Additional meetings to further discuss this process are expected, but none have been announced at the time of publishing.

EDUCATION + TRAINING

The National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT) developed a [virtual course for building and duct tightness training](#) that can be found on their website under the Residential Energy Services section. Additional energy code resources can be found on [Montana DEQ's Energy Program website](#).

Information on the Montana Homes Collaborative, including meeting info and recent newsletters, can be [found on NCAT's website](#).

From March 30 to April 2, 2026, the Department of Labor & Industry hosted the [2026 Montana Building Codes Education Conference](#) in Missoula. NEEA partners Montana State University Integrated Design Lab (IDL), Redpoint and Earth Advantage gave two presentations at the event. There were over 500 attendees overall, with over 50 attendees at each of the two NEEA-organized presentations.

<i>Training Topic</i>	<i>Course Length</i>	<i>Attendees</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Date</i>
<i>Build Tight, Ventilate Right - Strategies for Montana Climate</i>	4 hours	65	Missoula	3/31/2026
<i>High Performance Homes-Home Energy Rating</i>	4 hours	57	Missoula	3/31/2026

Standards Updates

FEDERAL STANDARDS

DESCRIPTION

As in Q4 of 2025, Q1 of 2026 has had very little federal appliance standards activity, and thus, NEEA has not participated in any rulemaking activity or submitted comment letters.

GENERAL UPDATES

None for Q1 2026.

New Construction Updates

RESIDENTIAL NEW CONSTRUCTION

DESCRIPTION

Through trainings and educational resources, Residential New Construction market activities focus on removing barriers to the adoption of above-code efficiency measures and construction techniques in new homes. These market activities build awareness and deepen the knowledge of builders and professionals in key trades to accelerate market adoption of above-code technologies and best practices. Much of the work centers on the [BetterBuiltNW website](#), which was created by NEEA to promote energy-efficient building practices in residential new construction throughout the Northwest. BetterBuiltNW and the rest of NEEA's interventions focus on both gas and electric technologies and residential building measures.

GENERAL UPDATES

- NEEA staff and the BetterBuiltNW team continue to work with the Regional Technical Forum (RTF) on the New Homes Protocol (Protocol). The Protocol defines the savings calculations for the Performance Path measure, which regional utilities can use to offer incentives on new homes. The Protocol review was extended into Q3 2026, and the RTF expects to finalize an updated Protocol by early July 2026. The BetterBuiltNW team will then update the Performance Path measure, reflecting changes to the Protocol and state code baselines.
- The BetterBuiltNW training team delivered a training at this year's Montana Codes Education Conference in Missoula.
- Monthly BetterBuiltNW newsletters were published and distributed, with topics including heat and energy recovery ventilators (HRVs/ERVs), a preview of the BuildRight Conference, and a look back at the top 2025 newsletter articles. Current and past newsletters can be found on [BetterBuiltNW's website](#).

EDUCATION + TRAINING

Residential new construction above-code trainings delivered in Q1 2026 are listed in the table below. On-demand training attendance numbers are cumulative starting January 1, 2026.

Training Topic	Course Length	Attendees	Location	Date
<i>Top-10 Best Practices for Today's Homebuilder</i>	3 hours	152	On-demand	Various
<i>Building with Ducts Inside Conditioned Spaces</i>	3 hours	170	On-demand	Various
<i>Sustainable Homes Professional</i>	15–20 hours	4	On-demand	Various
<i>How to Cost-Effectively Build Zero-Energy Homes</i>	3 hours	21	On-demand	Various
<i>On The Level: Exterior Air Barrier Details in the NW</i>	1 hour	14	On-demand	Various
<i>On The Level: Balanced Ventilation Approaches for Healthy Indoor Air</i>	1 hour	96	On-demand	Various
<i>On The Level: Installation Elements for ERVs & HRVs</i>	1 hour	88	On-demand	Various
<i>On The Level: Using Building Science to Inform Envelope Design</i>	1 hour	86	On-demand	Various
<i>On The Level: Practical Solutions for Selecting & Installing Exterior Insulation</i>	1 hour	12	On-demand	Various
<i>On The Level: Design and Quality Control Best Practices for ERVs/HRVs</i>	1 hour	78	On-demand	Various
<i>Zero Energy Homes: Updates & Cost-Effective Approaches</i>	1 hour	86	On-demand	Various
<i>Simple Steps to Improve Ductwork Installations</i>	1 hour	5	On-demand	Various
<i>45L: What You Need to Know</i>	1 hour	25	On-demand	Various
<i>On-Demand Hot Water Recirculation Systems</i>	1 hour	7	On-demand	Various
<i>Heat Pumps: Mastering Design Principles</i>	1 hour	8	On-demand	Various
<i>Heat Pumps: The Ultimate Installation Guide</i>	1 hour	3	On-demand	Various
<i>Building Performance & The Science Behind Home Construction</i>	1 hour	17	On-demand	Various
<i>Built to Last: Strategies for Long-Term Air Barrier Performance</i>	1 hour	17	On-demand	Various
<i>High-Performance Homes: Cold Climate Strategies & Case Studies</i>	1 hour	10	On-demand	Various
<i>YouTube Short: 5 Key Areas That Make or Break Performance</i>	2 minutes	228	On-demand	Various
<i>YouTube Short: Framing for Comfort and Efficiency</i>	3 minutes	483	On-demand	Various
<i>YouTube Short: Air Sealing: Where Performance is Won or Lost</i>	3 minutes	736	On-demand	Various
<i>YouTube Short: Insulation that Works Like it Should</i>	3 minutes	440	On-demand	Various
<i>YouTube Short: Pre-Drywall HVAC Essentials</i>	5 minutes	130	On-demand	Various
<i>YouTube Short: Verifying HVAC Performance</i>	5 minutes	463	On-demand	Various

Questions? Contact Us

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