



Newsletter / August 12, 2026

Q2 2026: Codes, Standards + New Construction

Highlights

ADVANCING CODES, STANDARDS AND NEW CONSTRUCTION ACROSS THE NORTHWEST

In Q2 2026, NEEA continued to advance energy efficiency through leadership in building energy codes, appliance standards and above-code construction practices across the Northwest. Several major code development efforts reached significant milestones. In Washington, the 2024 Washington State Energy Code entered its final public review phase, with a large majority of NEEA-supported commercial and residential proposals recommended for approval and positioned to improve energy performance, compliance and readiness for Washington's Building Performance Standard. Meanwhile, Oregon advanced the 2026 Oregon Residential Specialty Code toward final adoption, Montana's Building Code Council approved the 2024 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) with amendments, and Idaho continued discussions regarding future adoption pathways following legislative action on the 2024 code package.

At the national level, the technical development of the 2027 IECC was effectively completed as consensus committees finalized review and voting on code change proposals. NEEA staff continued to serve on key committees, helping ensure Northwest perspectives were represented throughout the process while also engaging in discussions that will shape the direction of the 2030 IECC.

Federal standards activity resumed after several quarters of limited action, prompting NEEA engagement on appliance standards and building energy code policy issues. NEEA submitted comments on a petition affecting furnace and commercial water heater compliance dates and began evaluating several new United States Department of Energy rulemakings and requests for information with implications for efficiency programs nationwide.

Education and training remained a cornerstone of NEEA's Market Transformation efforts. Through code trainings, technical assistance, compliance resources, BetterBuiltNW activities and the Washington commercial code compliance webtool, NEEA continued to support builders, designers, code officials and energy professionals across the region while expanding access to practical energy code implementation resources.

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Codes at a Glance

State	Sector	Code Version	Adopted Date	Effective Date	Next Code Update	Anticipated Adoption Date	Anticipated Effective Date
Idaho	Commercial	2018 IECC	4/2/2020	1/1/2021	2024 IECC (with weakening amendments) was voted down by Senate; considering updates via congressional action	<i>TBD</i>	<i>TBD</i>
	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)	2024 IECC with weakening amendments	Q3 2026	2027
	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	ASHRAE 90.1-2025 with amendments; review expected to begin Q4 2026	10/1/2027	4/1/2028
	Residential	2023 Oregon Residential Specialty Code (ORSC) (custom state-developed code)	10/1/2023	4/1/2024	2026 ORSC draft has been approved and is awaiting public hearing	10/1/2026	4/1/2027
Washington	Commercial	2021 Washington State Energy Code (WSEC) (2021 IECC with strengthening amendments)	11/28/2023	3/15/2024	2024 WSEC provisions released for public review (CR 102)	10/16/2026	5/3/2027
	Residential	2021 WSEC (2021 IECC with strengthening amendments)	11/28/2023	3/15/2024			

Note: Dates in bold are as announced by the state; dates in italics are estimates. See state codes updates throughout this newsletter for more detail on the anticipated dates in this chart.

NATIONAL MODEL CODE / INTERNATIONAL ENERGY CONSERVATION CODE (IECC)

DESCRIPTION

The 2027 IECC development process is nearly complete. The first round of code change proposals was 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 next code cycle, scope and structure changes for the 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. After holding a public comment period in Q1, [the ICC Board of Directors approved the proposed new direction for the 2030 IECC](#) at their April 2026 meeting. The ICC also solicited applications for 2030 IECC review committee members, due April 1.

GENERAL UPDATES

- In Q2 2026, the IECC Commercial and Residential Consensus Committees finished reviewing and voting on the second round of code change proposals. Final balloting for the changes approved during this second round began in May, and as of July, all approved comments from the Updated Committee Action Report have met the thresholds for inclusion in the final 2027 IECC. As such, the technical code development committee work for the 2027 IECC is complete. Following a few final process steps, including the appeals process, publication of the 2027 IECC is expected December 1, 2026.
- NEEA staff currently serve on the Commercial Consensus Committee, the Commercial HVAC subgroup and the Residential Modeling & Whole Building subgroup. 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 in its final round of public comment. The 2024 WSEC-C is now [scheduled to be finalized in late 2026](#).

GENERAL UPDATES

- In Q2, the State Building Code Council (SBCC) released its [2024 WSEC-C Preliminary Cost-Benefit Analysis](#), which was discussed at the Council's June meeting. This report provides proposal-level assessments for the 32 approved proposals deemed to have the largest cost impact. The [2024 WSEC-C final draft](#) was posted on June 30, and a public comment period was open until August 7 to solicit any further input.
- SBCC also released final drafts and solicited public comment for its other building code updates in Q2. NEEA submitted a comment related to proposed changes related to refrigerants in Washington's adoption of the 2024 International Mechanical Code.
- Dozens of the code change proposals submitted in 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. 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 training on the 2021 WSEC-C are available for on-demand viewing on NEEA's commercial [WSEC website](#).

There were no live WSEC-C trainings delivered in Q2 2026. For on-demand trainings, visit the [WSEC training website](#).

CODE COMPLIANCE WEBTOOL

The 2021 WSEC-C edition of the code compliance webtool was launched in Q1 2024 and has over 16,000 registered users and over 35,000 projects created. 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 in its final round of public comment. The 2024 WSEC-R is now [scheduled to be finalized in late 2026](#).

GENERAL UPDATES

- In Q2, the State Building Code Council released its [2024 WSEC-R Preliminary Cost-Benefit Analysis](#), which was discussed at the Council's May and June meetings. This report provides proposal-level assessments for the 11 approved proposals deemed to have the largest cost impact. The [2024 WSEC-C final draft](#) was posted on June 30, a 2024 WSEC-R final draft, and a public comment period was open until August 7 to solicit any further input. The [2024 WSEC-R final draft](#) was posted on June 30, and a public comment period was open until August 7 to solicit any further input.
- 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 Q2 2026 and on-demand trainings are listed in the table below. On-demand training attendance numbers are cumulative starting January 1, 2026.

<i>Training Topic</i>	<i>Course Length</i>	<i>Attendees</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Date</i>
<i>BuildRight Conference: WSEC Overview</i>	1 hour	25	Portland, OR	4/22/2026
<i>Energy Code Overview Webinar</i>	1 hour	22	Webinar	5/13/2026
<i>Energy Code Overview Webinar</i>	1 hour	18	Webinar	6/10/2026
<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	2	On Demand	Various

<i>2018 WSEC-R: Build Tight & Ventilate Right</i>	1 hour	12	On Demand	Various
<i>2018 WSEC-R: Balanced Ventilation with ERVs & HRVs</i>	1 hour	16	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	42	On Demand	Various
<i>Using the C3 Calculator to Calculate Ventilation Rates</i>	10 mins	85	On Demand	Various
<i>Filling out the Compliance Certificate for Ventilation Systems</i>	10 mins	83	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 early 2027.

OREGON STATE / COMMERCIAL CODE

DESCRIPTION

Oregon bases its commercial energy code on the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (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 April 2026. Learn more on the ASHRAE [website](#).

GENERAL UPDATES

The [Building Codes Division \(BCD\) proposed launching the 90.1-2025 adoption process this October](#) and is targeting October 2027 for adoption and April 2028 for full enforcement of its 2028 Oregon Energy Efficiency Specialty 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

- The 2026 ORSC public hearing and final comment opportunity is [expected to be held in August](#) following the Building Codes Division's (BCD) advisory boards review and approval of the [proposed energy code changes for 2026 ORSC](#) in Q1.
- 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 NEEA partners.
 - Participated in the code review committee that BCD convened to review energy code change proposals submitted for 2026 ORSC.
 - Provided ongoing assistance to the 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 \(OEESC\)](#), including a recent training on [COMcheck Web basic training for 2025 OEESC](#) on its website.

There were no live Oregon energy code trainings delivered in Q2 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 early 2027.

IDAHO STATE

DESCRIPTION

The Idaho Building Code Board (BCB) proposed adoption of modified versions of the 2024 IECC, International Residential Code, and International Building Code to the Legislature during the 2026 session.

GENERAL UPDATES

- Following the state legislature's Q1 vote to disapprove the 2024 building codes rules package developed by the BCB ([see docket 24-3930-2502](#)), the state is exploring possible adoption of these codes into state statute. This was discussed at the [June BCB meeting](#), with the resulting code update process likely delaying the effective date of any new code until no earlier than 2029. It is expected that the BCB will discuss next steps at its August 11 meeting.

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](#).

Idaho energy code trainings delivered in Q2 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>Air Balance Certification Training</i>	8 hours	24	Coeur d'Alene	4/22/2026
<i>Energy Code Training</i>	1 hour	2	Hailey	4/28/2026
<i>Air Balance Certification Training</i>	8 hours	7	Webinar	6/4/2026

MONTANA STATE

DESCRIPTION

In June, the Montana Building Code Council (BCC) completed its review and voted to approve the 2024 IECC with Montana amendments. NEEA expects this new code version to be formally adopted in Q3 2026 with an effective date in late 2026 or early 2027.

GENERAL UPDATES

- The Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) 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. NEEA submitted formal comments on the proposed amendments to DLI in April.
- At its meeting on June 8, the BCC reviewed and accepted public comments on the proposed code. The BCC subsequently voted to approve the proposed code amendments. [This draft 2024 IECC is currently awaiting publication in the Montana Administrative Register, which will trigger a final, formal public comment period](#) expected to occur in Q3, resulting in a likely effective date in late 2026 or early 2027.

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](#).

There were no Montana live trainings delivered in Q2 2026.

Standards Updates

FEDERAL STANDARDS

DESCRIPTION

After several quarters without activity, the US DOE restarted rulemaking in Q2 2026.

GENERAL UPDATES

- NEEA submitted one comment letter in Q2 regarding a petition to delay compliance dates for consumer furnaces and commercial water heaters.
- The United States Department of Energy also published several other rulemakings in Q2 (with comment deadlines in Q3) that NEEA is working on, including requests for information on Distribution Transformers and the Methodology for Assessing Affordability and Cost-Effectiveness of Building Energy Codes.

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 NEEA created 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 training team delivered several training sessions at this year's BuildRight Conference + Expo in Portland, OR.
- The monthly BetterBuiltNW newsletters published and distributed throughout Q2 focused on topics including passive building strategies, a review of the BuildRight Conference, and strategies for building front rooms over garages. Current and past newsletters can be found on the [BetterBuiltNW website](#).

EDUCATION + TRAINING

Residential new construction above-code trainings delivered in Q2 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	248	On demand	Various
<i>Building with Ducts Inside Conditioned Spaces</i>	3 hours	288	On demand	Various
<i>Sustainable Homes Professional</i>	15–20 hours	10	On demand	Various
<i>How to Cost-Effectively Build Zero-Energy Homes</i>	3 hours	41	On demand	Various
<i>On The Level: Exterior Air Barrier Details in the NW</i>	1 hour	143	On demand	Various
<i>On The Level: Balanced Ventilation Approaches for Healthy Indoor Air</i>	1 hour	139	On demand	Various

<i>On The Level: Installation Elements for ERVs & HRVs</i>	1 hour	95	On demand	Various
<i>On The Level: Using Building Science to Inform Envelope Design</i>	1 hour	33	On demand	Various
<i>On The Level: Practical Solutions for Selecting & Installing Exterior Insulation</i>	1 hour	215	On demand	Various
<i>On The Level: Design and Quality Control Best Practices for ERVs/HRVs</i>	1 hour	232	On demand	Various
<i>Zero Energy Homes: Updates & Cost-Effective Approaches</i>	1 hour	150	On demand	Various
<i>Simple Steps to Improve Ductwork Installations</i>	1 hour	9	On demand	Various
<i>45L: What You Need to Know</i>	1 hour	28	On demand	Various
<i>On-Demand Hot Water Recirculation Systems</i>	1 hour	12	On demand	Various
<i>Heat Pumps: Mastering Design Principles</i>	1 hour	15	On demand	Various
<i>Heat Pumps: The Ultimate Installation Guide</i>	1 hour	3	On demand	Various
<i>Heat Pumps: The Art of Commissioning</i>	1 hour	3	On demand	Various
<i>Building Performance & The Science Behind Home Construction</i>	1 hour	21	On demand	Various
<i>Built to Last: Strategies for Long-Term Air Barrier Performance</i>	1 hour	18	On demand	Various
<i>High-Performance Homes: Cold Climate Strategies & Case Studies</i>	1 hour	21	On demand	Various
<i>YouTube Short: 5 Key Areas That Make or Break Performance</i>	2 minutes	303	On demand	Various
<i>YouTube Short: Framing for Comfort and Efficiency</i>	3 minutes	517	On demand	Various
<i>YouTube Short: Air Sealing: Where Performance is Won or Lost</i>	3 minutes	775	On demand	Various
<i>YouTube Short: Insulation that Works Like it Should</i>	3 minutes	498	On demand	Various
<i>YouTube Short: Pre-Drywall HVAC Essentials</i>	5 minutes	250	On demand	Various
<i>YouTube Short: Verifying HVAC Performance</i>	5 minutes	513	On demand	Various
<i>Build Tight, Ventilate Right: Strategies for Montana Climate</i>	1 hour	64	Missoula, MT	4/1/2026
<i>High Performance Homes/Home Energy Rating</i>	1 hour	64	Missoula, MT	4/1/2026
<i>BuildRight 2026: Air Barriers That Last: Findings from a Multi-Year Durability Study</i>	1 hour	65	Portland, OR	4/22/2026 - 4/23/2026
<i>BuildRight 2026: Balanced Whole House Ventilation: No Air Handlers Allowed</i>	1 hour	50	Portland, OR	4/22/2026 - 4/23/2026
<i>BuildRight 2026: Heat Pump Options Under the Proposed Oregon Residential Specialty Code</i>	1 hour	35	Portland, OR	4/22/2026 - 4/23/2026
<i>BuildRight 2026: Diagnostic Equipment Calibration Service</i>	1 hour	67	Portland, OR	4/22/2026 - 4/23/2026
<i>BuildRight 2026: Rater Round Table</i>	1 hour	35	Portland, OR	4/22/2026 - 4/23/2026

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