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To: [Public Testimony](#); [Parks-Shaw, Ryana](#); [Bunch, Eric](#); [Willett, Nathan](#); [Melissa Patterson Hazley](#)
Subject: ORDINANCE NO. 240434 | Vote No
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Dear Neighborhood Planning & Development Committee Member, City Council Member, and other interested parties,

I am writing to you today in support of the current Kansas City policy of requiring compliance with the IECC 2021 for new residential construction in Kansas City and to encourage a No vote on ordinance 240434.

Raising the building standards in Kansas City is critical to creating better living conditions for our city's population. Higher building standards are generally being talked about in the context of energy savings. But lower energy bills, while beneficial, is a one-dimensional analytic that ignores the health, comfort, and durability improvements afforded by better buildings.

But if you do want to talk just money, higher durability means a lower cost of home ownership over time and peace of mind that a house will not become a maintenance headache. Occupant comfort is a result of better building materials around the six sides of the structure creating a safer, quieter, and more reliably stable temperature and humidity environment. Occupant health is improved through higher air quality and better sleep which also translates into lower cost through lower medical bills.

Kala has been building high-performance buildings for over a decade without public assistance and at market rate. We have won design awards. We are comfortable with the IECC 2021 requirements and actually view them as a minimum standard for the construction of better buildings as every Kala home exceeds the IECC 2021 standard, and has done so for many years.

Our customers have no problem getting financing for the build and purchase of Kala homes. All of them use the Green Addendum that provides a path for translating a better built home into an appropriate valuation.

Every building is a balance of size, interior finish, performance, and quality. Not diluting the IECC 2021 standards already in place, simply requires architects, builders, and home owners to place the same amount of emphasis on the components of the building you

cannot see as they do on the ones you can. The payoff for the occupants is better health, comfort and cost of energy and maintenance.

Cities like Austin, Denver, Chicago and many others have adopted IECC 2021. This is an opportunity for Kansas City to change the landscape for occupants for the better.

For more information about these topics please follow the links below.

Cary DeCamp + the 25 Kala teammates working to better Kansas City

<https://www.kalabuilt.com/blog/kala-exceeds-the-2021-iecc-building-standards-for-kansas-city>

<https://www.kalabuilt.com/blog/how-passive-house-building-tackles-seasonal-allergies>

<https://www.kalabuilt.com/blog/how-passive-house-building-redefines-sustainability>

<https://www.kalabuilt.com/blog/how-passive-house-building-redefines-comfort>

<https://www.kalabuilt.com/blog/how-passive-house-building-redefines-durability>

<https://www.kalabuilt.com/blog/the-powerful-impact-of-a-high-performance-home>



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Kala Exceeds the 2021 IECC Building Standards for Kansas City Missouri

Local architecture/build firm is delivering high-performance homes that satisfy requirements for new builds and deliver comfortable, durable, and healthy living

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI, USA, June 20, 2024

/EINPresswire.com/ -- Kala today announced the completion and pending sale of another net-zero, high-performance home in Kansas City, MO that exceeds the IECC 2021 building code endorsed by the Kansas City, Missouri City Council in October 2022. The [home in West Plaza](#) combines a high-performance building assembly with rooftop solar resulting in a home that generates more energy than it consumes—energy that can be used to power electric mobility or sent to the grid.

Kala is currently working with the Kansas City planning office for permit approval of homes exceeding the new building standards at build prices ranging from \$250,000 to \$1.5 million. Kala delivered [the first certified Passive House in Missouri](#) in 2022 proving that building to a high-standard can be accomplished at market rate.

“With over a decade of experience in high-performance construction, Kala is open for business and comfortable with 2021 IECC requirements,” said Kala co-founder Cary DeCamp. “We’ve been building sustainable homes with high energy ratings since the beginning, continue to start new projects for our clients that meet or surpass 2021 IECC standards, and we support Kansas City’s effort to build better buildings for homeowners.”

Rigorous certifications like Phius CORE, LEED Platinum, and DOE ZERH are based on extensive testing and verification of the built condition by trained professionals. This ensures a Kala home offers quantifiably more utility savings, sustainability benefits, and resale value over a conventional new build.

Kala’s thoughtful and comprehensive design process unites architecture, craftsmanship, materials, and proven building science yielding homes that go beyond the simplistic and one-dimensional thinking that better buildings only provide a financial payback in terms of reduced



Recently completed net-zero home in the West Plaza neighborhood



A more stringent energy code doesn't just encourage sustainable construction, but also ensures homes are better to live in."

David Schleicher

energy cost. Better buildings most importantly provide profound improvements in comfort, health, and durability.

In October 2022, the Kansas City, Missouri City Council approved the [adoption of the 2021 IECC](#). The council initially chose an unamended version but has since added an amendment allowing builders to use the 2018 IECC if they can demonstrate increased energy efficiency. Both

took effect on July 1st, 2023, with a 90-day grace period.

"A more stringent energy code doesn't just encourage sustainable construction, but also ensures homes are better to live in," said David Schleicher, Kala co-founder. "The 2021 IECC standards raise the quality bar for housing in Kansas City, and with our experienced in-house architecture and build teams, we deliver a hassle-free experience for homeowners, from design to permitting to moving in."

About Kala

Kala is Kansas City's only certified Passive House design + build firm. We believe the modern American home can and should support a rich and comfortable lifestyle while contributing to the health and welfare of its occupants, the planet, and future generations. We bring total dedication to building your certified, high-performance home to maximize health, comfort, durability, affordability, and sustainability, regardless of how big or small, modest or luxurious, urban or rural it might be.

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