



DATE: May 14, 2024

TO: Neighborhood Planning and Development Committee

ATTN: Chairperson Ryana Parks-Shaw and Members of the Committee

FROM: Mary English, Building Performance Program Manager, Metropolitan Energy Center
Kelly, Gilbert, Executive Director, Metropolitan Energy Center

RE: Testimony regarding Ordinance No. 240434

I represent Metropolitan Energy Center (MEC) and am here to discuss the implementation of the 2021 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC). It is crucial to focus on the tangible results we have seen from adhering to these modern standards, specifically concerning the efficiency of our city's permitting process.

First, due to the [spike in permit applications prior to the policy going into effect](#), new single-family housing starts have not been drastically impacted. And that said, I am pleased to report permit applications under the new process have gotten much better for the contractors that have learned the new requirements. And all stakeholders are working diligently to iron out some remaining issues with the permit process.

Through MEC's engagement with industry professionals, including builders and developers who have successfully navigated the new code, we have gathered a portfolio of case studies. We are thankful for the builders that have been willing to share their successful permit applications with the rest of the community, so we have solid examples of the paperwork and plan requirements.

These findings are critical, as they are in line with the typical bumps – and proceeding adjustments – one expects from a new policy implementation. MEC is listening to our contractor community to provide what they need. For instance, we will modify our 2021 IECC code training to meet the needs of the industry, with the three upcoming training courses scheduled through August. And MEC is available to assist city staff with streamlining the permitting process, as needed.

It is crucial to keep our current energy code to maintain relevance in today's rapidly changing market and new technologies. Nationwide, the U.S. Housing and Urban Development Department has adopted 2021 IECC for new construction of HUD- and USDA-financed housing. Since the rest of the nation – and [most likely our fellow regional municipalities – are planning to implement the 2021 or the 2024](#)

[IECC](#), the need for Kansas City to maintain its leadership position is paramount. Any attempt to roll back this policy will set us back on multiple fronts, but to name a few: robust new job creation, new technology implementation, regional resiliency, and economic relevance are all at stake.

In conclusion, MEC recommends staying the course, but also creating a working group among city permitting staff, builders and IECC experts to smooth out the permitting bumps instead of considering this change to this policy, which is a crucial update long past due in our region.

Thank you for considering the evidence and for your continued support of sustainable development in Kansas City.

Mary English (she/her), Energy Program Manager, Building Performance | Mary@Metroenergy.org
Metropolitan Energy Center | 913-579-8484 mobile
www.metroenergy.org