



SOUTHWEST ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROJECT

Saving Money and Protecting the Environment Through More Efficient Energy Use

November 27th, 2018

Dear Pima County Planning and Zoning Commission:

Re: Item 7, "P18TA00009 2018 INTERNATIONAL RESIDENTIAL CODE UPDATE"

The Southwest Energy Efficiency Project (SWEEP) strongly urges you to approve of Pima County's adoption of "Appendix T" in the International Residential Code to support the development of solar-ready homes. This recommendation is consistent with the direction adopted unanimously by the Tucson City Council on Tuesday, October 9, 2018, and the Pima County Board of Supervisor's recommendation to open a Public Hearing regarding this matter on Tuesday, October 16, 2018.

SWEEP participated in all ten of the stakeholder meetings held by the Tucson-Pima County Joint Consolidated Code Committee. This process was robust; open to all interested participants; and included rigorous vetting of proposals.

The adoption of the Appendix T provisions will ensure that houses built in Pima County will be meet the current and future energy needs of Southern Arizonans. Adoption of Appendix T is an important addition to the energy efficiency codes that were adopted by the Board of Supervisors in October. Inefficient homes with solar panels continues to pay higher electric bills. By allowing efficient homes to be ready for future solar installations, Pima County is showing the building community that it is forward-thinking.

By ensuring that our homes and buildings are constructed using proven methodologies and technologies, the 2018 IRC Appendix T provision supports the following:

- Ensure homes are more affordable and comfortable
- Increase home resale values
- Decrease default and foreclosure risk
- Drive down the short-term and long-term cost of energy
- Defer the need to construct costly new energy infrastructure, which Pima County residents and businesses ultimately pay for through higher electricity bills,
- Improve air quality, and
- Reduce water consumption.

Given that many homes can endure up to 100-years or more, energy efficient construction today, complement by the solar-readiness provision Appendix T,

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would generate decades of benefits for Pima County's residents and businesses. Additionally, during these times of upward electric utility rate pressure, the benefits of Appendix T are more important now than ever.

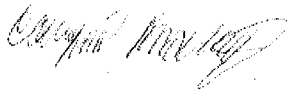
Despite the rapid growth and interest in solar energy, solar development is often limited by local barriers including building codes. Unfortunately, these barriers raise the price of solar energy systems for residents and businesses. The adoption of Appendix T as part of the 2018 IRC would help Pima County to tackle these barriers and to support increased renewable energy deployment. This provision reserves a section of a roof or building for future solar installations. It also calls for space to be reserved in the electric panel for the installation of circuit breakers required by rooftop solar systems. The upfront cost of these requirements is minimal and would remove significant barriers that increase the cost of solar solar for Pima County residents.

SWEEP recommends that Pima County Planning and Zoning commission move forward with the adoption and implementation of the "Appendix T" International Residential Code amendment to ensure Pima County's economic prosperity.

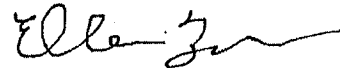
Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments.



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Arizona Staff for the Southwest Energy Efficiency Project

The Southwest Energy Efficiency Project is a public-interest organization promoting greater energy efficiency and clean transportation in Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming.

Melissa Whitney

From: Caryn Massey <cmassey@swenergy.org>
Sent: Tuesday, December 18, 2018 9:56 AM
To: COB_mail
Subject: Approve Appendix T
Attachments: SWEEPSupportofPimaCountyIRCAAppendixT.pdf

This message and sender come from outside Pima County. If you did not expect this message, proceed with caution. Verify the sender's identity before performing any action, such as clicking on a link or opening an attachment.

Hello Pima County Supervisors,

I am writing to you today on behalf of SWEEP, the Southwest Energy Efficiency Project. SWEEP is a public-interest organization dedicated to promoting greater energy efficiency and clean transportation across the southwest. I would like to encourage you to vote for Appendix-T, the solar-readiness provision in the International Residential Code, item number 23 on today's agenda.

SWEEP has been actively engaged in this conversation, from Tucson City Council to Pima County's Planning and Zoning Commission. Please find attached our letter of support to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best,

Caryn Massey

Program Associate, Southwest Energy Efficiency Project

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Melissa Whitney

From: Bret Fanshaw <bfanshaw@environmentamerica.org>
Sent: Tuesday, December 18, 2018 9:16 AM
To: COB_mail
Subject: Support for Solar Ready Homes

This message and sender come from outside Pima County. If you did not expect this message, proceed with caution. Verify the sender's identity before performing any action, such as clicking on a link or opening an attachment.

Dear Pima County Leaders:

I write to you on behalf of Environment Arizona, a statewide, citizen-based non-profit organization promoting clean air, clean water and open space in Arizona. We have thousands of members and supporters across the state, including many in Pima County.

We are pleased that Pima County is poised to adopt Appendix T, the solar readiness section of the IRC. I urge you to adopt the measure. Solar ready homes will help to streamline further rooftop solar adoption in Pima County, which will benefit citizens and the environment.

For future consideration, any home or structure built without solar is a missed opportunity to generate clean, renewable energy. The most efficient time to install solar panels is when workers are already on the roof. California just finalized a rule so that all new homes built in 2020 and beyond will come with solar panels. We studied this rule and found that if Arizona adopted the same, we could triple our current installed solar capacity by 2045.

Here's the study: <https://environmentamerica.org/feature/ame/solar-homes>

Today I hope you will pass the solar ready homes provision. Looking ahead, building homes with solar seems to be a logical and beneficial next step. Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Bret Fanshaw
Director, Go Solar Campaign
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Bret Fanshaw
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