



SOUTHWEST ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROJECT

Saving Money and Protecting the Environment Through More Efficient Energy Use

October 15, 2018

Dear Pima County Board of Supervisors:

Re: Item 33, "P18TA00006, BUILDING, AND CONSTRUCTION CODE UPDATES"

The Southwest Energy Efficiency Project (SWEEP) strongly urges you to adopt the 2018 International Energy Conservation Code (2018 IECC) with the inclusion of "Appendix T" 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.

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 2018 IECC represents one of the most cost-effective solutions for Pima County to meet its current and future energy needs and to save citizens and businesses money on their energy bills now and in the future.

By ensuring that our homes and buildings are constructed using proven methodologies and technologies, the 2018 IECC would deliver substantial economic and environmental benefits for Pima County and guarantee superior building performance. It would:

- 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
- Create skilled local jobs that cannot be outsourced
- 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, guided by the 2018 IECC, 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 the 2018 IECC 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 IECC 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 move forward with the adoption and implementation of the 2018 IECC with the inclusion of Appendix T to ensure Pima County's economic prosperity.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments.

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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.