

## **Oregon's Energy Efficiency Code Achieves National Standards**

[Experts at the University of Oregon have confirmed](#) that Oregon's commercial and industrial buildings are equivalent to the national benchmark established by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE).

The Energy Studies in Building Laboratory at the University of Oregon compared the 2014 Oregon Energy Efficiency Specialty Code (OEESC) to the ANSI/ASHRAE/IES Standard 90.1-2013 (ASHRAE 90.1) code in 16 types of buildings, including apartments, hospitals, hotels, offices, restaurants, retail, schools, and warehouses. Based on this analysis, the OEESC is equivalent to ASHRAE 90.1.

ASHRAE is an international leader in building energy codes, and the U.S. DOE has adopted ASHRAE 90.1 as the national benchmark for building energy performance. By achieving performance equivalent to ASHRAE 90.1, Oregon continues to be a leader in energy efficient construction.

The 2014 OEESC was developed and approved in an open, collaborative, and public process where the construction industry, energy advocates, and the general public were able to review and debate potential code provisions. Oregon's code has a clear path to compliance, choices to best suit the needs of the building owner and occupants, and statewide enforcement to ensure well-built, efficient buildings across the state.

The Oregon Building Codes Division is working with code experts and stakeholders to adopt updated efficiency standards for commercial and industrial structures in October of 2019. Once adopted, those updated standards will be reviewed by the University of Oregon for compliance with national efficiency benchmarks.

The American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy ranks states based on an energy efficiency score, which includes individual efficiency scores for utilities, transportation, appliances, heat and power, state government initiatives, and building energy codes. The building code score has consistently been [among the top in the nation](#). Oregon's overall score dropped from 4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> in 2016, but its building code score remained at 6.5 out of a possible 7 points.

In contrast with many other efficiency leaders, Oregon's energy codes are developed in a consensus process informed by independent research, and implemented statewide to ensure equal protection and consistent outcomes for all Oregonians.