

# ICC Government Relations' Chapter Monthly Update



**September 2021** Follow @ICC\_GR on [Twitter](#) for breaking news & announcements throughout the month. Click [here](#) for ICC Government Relations Staff Regional Maps.

## Keynote speakers in Pittsburgh explore trends in workplaces, strategies, leadership and diversity

The **Empowering Leaders Luncheon** during this year's ICC Annual Conference in Pittsburgh will feature keynote speaker [Jennifer McClure, president at Unbridled Talent LLC](#), who is recognized as an expert on the future of work, innovative people strategies and high-impact leadership. In her session — “Prepare for Impact: Leading Business Transformation in a Post-Pandemic World” — McClure explores progressive ways to evolve and disrupt traditional business practices. New this year, the **Connections Gala: A Community Reunited**, is a formal event for the ICC Annual Conference in Pittsburgh that will feature keynote speaker [Markus Achord](#), head of diversity, inclusion and belonging at Sunrun. He will present a high-level explanation of what diversity, equity and inclusion mean specifically in a business environment and how everyone has a role in making teams more inclusive. [Read more here.](#)

## Schedule for the 2021 Public Comment Hearing September 21-26 in Pittsburgh is formally posted

This month's 2021 ICC Annual Conference & Group A Public Comment Hearings will include Membership Council Meetings and Education Programs on Sunday, September 19, and the Annual Business Meeting on Monday, September 20. [Click here](#) for the conference website and you can [click here](#) if you want to see the list of candidates vying for positions on the ICC Board of Directors. The Public Comment Hearings will start on Tuesday, September 21, at 8 a.m. Eastern. The schedule anticipates that the hearings will be completed no later than 7 p.m. Eastern on Sunday, September 26. This may require adjustments to the daily start and end times based on hearing progress. The hearings will start with the Plumbing/Mechanical/Fuel Gas (PMG) codes, followed by the Fire Code and then the building related codes, starting with the Property Maintenance Code and then the Building Code. [Read more here.](#)

## Precautions to prioritize safety are in place as the in-person 2021 Annual Conference opening nears

As the opening events draw near for the 2021 ICC Annual Conference and Public Comment Hearings in Pittsburgh, the Code Council is making personal safety a high priority. So far, there are no local or state restrictions in place in Pittsburgh on gatherings or events. Here's what you can expect:

- All Code Council staff in attendance will be fully vaccinated.
- There will be readily available hand sanitizing stations and complimentary masks.
- We will make any adjustments necessary to adhere to all local, state and federal safety guidelines in place at the time of the event.

As in previous years, testimony and voting during the Public Comment Hearings will be in person only. A live stream will be available for remote listeners. [Read more here.](#)



## Hurry to register for the Sixth Annual Ron Burton Golf Outing in Pittsburgh

The Sixth Annual Ron Burton Golf Outing will take place on Sept. 19, 2021, and funds raised at this event will go towards training and resources for the next generation of code officials. [It's filling up fast!](#)

## ICC Board presents 2021 proposed amendments to the ICC bylaws for consideration and approval

The International Code Council Board of Directors will present proposed amendments to the ICC bylaws for consideration and approval by ICC membership at this year's Annual Business Meeting in Pittsburgh. The proposed amendments accommodate current organizational needs and position the Code Council for future success. [Read more here.](#)

## ROUND 2: FEMA's BRIC program offers double the money for code adoptions and code activities

Now in its second year, the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program is set to award \$1 billion for pre-disaster mitigation grants. This is an opportunity for jurisdictions to submit applications for programs and services to

improve their code adoption, enforcement, and operations because BRIC prioritizes the adoption and enforcement of hazard resistant building codes and makes funding available for adoption activities. You can [click here](#) for a fact sheet on how the FY2021 BRIC program promotes the adoption and enforcement of hazard resistant codes. **What can you do now?** Save these dates:

- Application Opening: September 30, 2021
- Application Deadline: January 28, 2022
- **Note:** Local governments must apply through their states. Many states have fixed subapplication deadlines that precede the application deadline. Contact your State Hazard Mitigation Officer (SHMO) to confirm your state's deadline. [Click here](#) to find your SHMO's contact information.
- Identify your department's needs that qualify for BRIC funding.
  - [Click here](#) for FEMA's BRIC Building Code Activities document.
  - **Note:** Code activities are eligible as a "Capability- and Capacity-Building" (C&CB) activity under \$1 million State/Territory and Tribal set-asides.
- Reach out to your jurisdiction's Mitigation Officer and share your department's needs and discuss the application process. Coordinate with your ICC chapter and state agencies.

Stay tuned for a Code Council webinar on FY2021 BRIC funding opportunities! Forthcoming FEMA webinars on BRIC can be accessed [here](#). And contact us, [advocacy@iccsafe.org](mailto:advocacy@iccsafe.org) with any questions.

**USE THE ATTACHED LETTER to receive American Recovery Plan funds to upgrade your department**

This edition of ICC GR's Chapter Monthly Update includes an attached draft letter you can customize and use to request American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding to assist your department in increasing its remote work capabilities. The letter covers **electronic permitting, plan review, remote virtual inspections, and online access to codes and standards**. It's also [downloadable from our Coronavirus Response Center page](#). We hope this can help reduce barriers to take advantage of these resources. The ARP funding is a great opportunity for communities to get the federal government to fully fund [Municipality, Inspected, Digital Codes Premium](#) and other important virtual tools. [Read more here](#) about the new 2021 American Recovery Plan benefits for your department and your community.

**Building safety groups meet in West Palm Beach to discuss the structural safety of existing buildings**

Building safety organizations from around the country and experts in the building safety community gathered last week in West Palm Beach, Florida, to discuss how communities monitor the safety of existing buildings, what guidance exists for building owners, and how future catastrophic events can be avoided. The panel discussion — "Ensuring the Safety of Existing Buildings" — was hosted by the Building Officials Association of Florida and sponsored by the Building Owners and Managers Association International, the International Code Council, and the National Institute of Building Sciences. Experts from an array of backgrounds (including code enforcement, building, construction, design and real estate) joined the discussions. [Read more here](#).

**October 12 is deadline for code change submittals for the 2024 IECC and Chapter 11 of the 2024 IRC**

Code change proposals for the development of its 2024 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) and Chapter 11 of the International Residential Code (IRC) will be accepted until 11:59 p.m. Pacific Time on October 12. As established through the Code Council's recently released energy efficiency framework, *Leading the Way to Energy Efficiency: A Path Forward on Energy and Sustainability to Confront a Changing Climate*, the 2024 IECC and Chapter 11 of the IRC will be updated using the Code Council's American National Standards Institute (ANSI) approved standards process. To submit a code change proposal, visit the new energy only version of cdpACCESS [here](#). For more information on ICC's energy initiatives, the framework and related FAQs, visit [www.iccsafe.org/energy](http://www.iccsafe.org/energy). [Read more here](#).

**ICC and RESNET to collaborate on remote virtual inspections for energy and water performance**

The International Code Council and RESNET, a national standards-making body for energy efficiency ratings and certification systems, are collaborating on a new American National Standards Institute (ANSI) candidate standard on remote virtual inspections (RVI) for the energy and water use performance of buildings. Previously, the two organizations have worked together to develop a new certification designation, the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC)/Home Energy Rating System (HERS) Compliance Specialist, and four other ANSI standards. Most recently, they advocated and received

recognition of the Home Energy Rating System (HERS®) Index within California. The new standard will provide guidance for implementing RVI for energy code compliance and for energy and water efficiency performance. Performance raters will be provided criteria to check all aspects of permitted construction for compliance with energy codes and other energy-related applicable laws and regulations. As a next step, a new Standard Development Committee will be formed to develop and maintain the standard with the Code Council and RESNET appointing representatives. [Read more here.](#)

### **September 30 is the deadline to apply for seats on the Solar Thermal Standard Consensus Committee**

The Code Council is currently accepting applications for the Solar Thermal Standard Consensus Committee (IS-STSC). As an ANSI-accredited, standards-developing organization, the Code Council is seeking applicants to serve on the IS-STSC Technical Committee in order to produce a new standard, ICC 903/SRCC 500, Solar Hot Water Storage Tanks. This committee will have primary responsibility for developing a standard to safeguard the public health, safety and general welfare through design, construction and testing requirements for solar hot water storage tanks intended for use in solar water heating systems. The deadline to submit applications is Sept. 30, 2021. [Find applications here.](#)

### **Summer meeting of ICC Board of Directors marked its first in-person since the COVID shutdowns**

The International Code Council Board of Directors recently held its annual summer meeting in Boston, Massachusetts. Present at the meeting were Board President Greg Wheeler, the board's officers and directors, Chief Executive Officer Dominic Sims, and Code Council senior staff. During its first in-person meeting in over a year and a half, the board addressed a wide variety of matters. [Read more here.](#)

### **NIBS to hold ninth annual conference and expo virtually September 27-29 on NIBS' Virtual Platform**

The [National Institute of Building Sciences'](#) (NIBS) ninth annual conference and expo — [Building Innovation 2021](#) — will be held virtually from September 27–29, 2021, on NIBS' Virtual Platform. This year's event will bring together building and fire safety experts from across the industry to explore strategies aimed at creating and sustaining high-performance, resilient buildings and communities. For the sixth year in a row, the International Code Council will hold a [lead sponsorship role](#) in the Building Innovation conference and there are a wide range of opportunities for Code Council members to gain valuable insights from attending this collaborative online conference. The Building Innovation 2021 conference program will present 27 sessions and 42 speakers over three information-packed days focusing on technology, resilience, the workplace and the challenges that COVID-19 brings to the built environment. [Read more here.](#)

### **ICC and ASID leaders collaborating to develop a new interior design code specialist certification**

The Code Council and the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID), the oldest and largest multi-disciplinary professional organization for interior designers, are joining forces to support designers through a series of initiatives and programs that will promote building safety. As its first initiative, ASID and the Code Council will collaborate on a new certification credential for which designers may apply: the Interior Design Code Specialist (IDCS), which will promote building safety through the profession of interior design. The Code Council will take the lead in the development of the exam, while ASID will identify the subject matter experts who will provide input. [Read more here.](#)

### **ICC-ES becomes recognized provider of Safe Quality Food Institute Certification for food industry**

ICC Evaluation Service (ICC-ES) has been awarded recognition by the Safe Quality Food Institute (SQFI) farm-to-table food safety and quality standards. The ICC-ES Food Safety Management Certification Program combines the experience and knowledge of the widely accepted certification body with systematic application of Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point to provide a solution for businesses supplying local and global food markets. [Read more here.](#)

### **ICC-ES issues first ICC 500 Storm Shelter listing report to Solatube International, leader in TDDs**

The ICC Evaluation Service (ICC-ES) has issued the first Storm Shelter Listing Report to the ICC 500 Standard. The [ICC 500-2020](#) ICC/NSSA Standard for the Design and Construction of Storm Shelters provides minimum design and construction requirements for storm shelters, containing basic occupant life safety and health requirements for these shelters including means of egress, lighting, sanitation,

ventilation, fire safety and floor space. [Solatube](#) International, Inc. is the leader and manufacturer of tubular daylighting devices (TDD). The company's TDD (model S750DS-O-DPI-FC CCI-EXX E-L2P) has been evaluated in compliance with the impact requirements of ICC 500 for use in horizontal surfaces of tornado or hurricane storm shelters. Solatube is a Safe Room Component manufacturer as well as a member of the National Storm Shelter Association ([NSSA](#)). [Read more here.](#)

### **Current building codes are a major tool to support community disaster preparedness and resilience**

Building codes and standards have long been a silent partner in the health, safety and welfare of communities and are becoming increasingly more important in society. Today's leaders face a multitude of risks, including extreme weather events such as hurricanes, tornados, straight-line winds, flooding, drought and wildfires as well as global risks from communicable disease outbreaks and environmental change. According to the Code Council's Karl Fippinger, building codes and standards continue to provide a safe structural foundation for communities as a trusted and proven resource and are regularly evolving to meet the challenges of these dynamic threats. [Read more here.](#)

### **Fireshed Registry helps address the growing wildfire threat by spotting trends in community exposure**

The Fireshed Registry is an interactive geospatial data portal providing access to data describing past, present and future trends regarding wildfire exposure to communities and forest and fuel management. The "fireshed" classification system factors in longer fire seasons and the rising size and severity of wildfires. It prioritizes large areas of wildlands — the source of fire in developed areas — rather than focusing solely on individual communities that need protection from these sources of fire. Since 2015, the United States has averaged 100 more large wildfires every year than the year before, creating conditions in which wildfires overwhelm response capabilities. [Read more here.](#)

### **USGS creates onsite, time-saving technique for building inspectors to determine asbestos content**

Scientists and partners from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) have created an onsite, time-saving technique for building inspectors to ascertain whether vermiculite insulation contains asbestos. This new technology measures the near-infrared light spectrum of insulation materials to help identify the source of vermiculite insulation and detect whether the insulation may be contaminated with a known source of asbestos. Vermiculite insulation can be analyzed while it is still in a residential or commercial structure using a portable spectrometer. Samples from attics and walls may be tested in a more timely and cost-efficient manner compared to other time-consuming, off-site traditional laboratory analysis methods, with accurate results. [Read more here.](#)

### **December 1 is the new deadline for applications for the Emory R. Rodgers Fellowship funding**

Named for one of the Code Council's greatest mentors, the Emory R. Rodgers Leadership in Building Safety Fellowship is available annually to a building safety professional who has demonstrated an executive-level career path and wants to further develop leadership skills through an eligible executive development program. The fellowship will afford up to \$20,000 dollars to cover the full cost of the education program and the award recipient's travel to and from the program. Applications are currently being accepted and the new deadline is December 1. [Read more here.](#)



## **ICC Plumbing, Mechanical and Fuel Gas updates**

### **Code Council supports NIST for the Future Act of 2021 amendment on premise plumbing research**

The [National Institute of Standards and Technology for the Future Act of 2021](#) includes an [amendment](#) from Representative Paul Tonko (D-NY), supported by the Code Council, that pertains to premise plumbing research. According to the [National Research Council of the National Academies](#), "premise plumbing" is defined as "...that portion of the potable water distribution system associated with schools, hospitals, public and private housing, and other buildings. It is connected to the main distribution system via the service line." The submitted amendment directs NIST to create a program for premise plumbing, including metrology research concerning water safety, efficiency, sustainability and resilience. The amendment also requires coordinating research activities with academia, the private sector, nonprofits and federal agencies. The Code Council also supports stand-alone legislation led by

U.S. Representative Matt Cartwright (D-PA) and U.S. Senator Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) to address these issues, both directly and as the chair of the [High-Performance Buildings Coalition](#). [Read more here](#).

### **A change to 2021 International Fuel Gas Code deletes exception for commercial cooking appliances**

A modification to Section 623.2 (Commercial Cooking Appliances) states that an unnecessary exception for commercial cooking appliances within dwelling units has been deleted in the 2021 International Fuel Gas Code. The exception was created because some consumers were demanding commercial cooking appliances in their homes as this has become a popular trend. Also, at least one state government modified the adopted IFGC to permit commercial cooking appliances to be installed in dwellings if an engineer designed the job. The marketplace has taken care of this demand, because appliance manufacturers currently offer many commercial-style appliances that are dual listed as both commercial and household appliances. [Read more here](#).

### **Former Fort Collins CBO takes on position of Director of the Code Council's PMG Resources in GR**

Richard Anderson recently joined the Code Council as a Director of Plumbing, Mechanical, and Fuel Gas (PMG) Resources in the Government Relations Department. As part of his responsibilities, Anderson will work with the Code Council's team of experts to develop, coordinate, and implement PMG programs and services related to the International Codes (I-Codes). With 23 years of building safety and PMG experience, most recently Anderson represented the City of Fort Collins as a Chief Building Official where he oversaw the enforcement of all building codes for the city. [Read more here](#).



### **Upcoming from the Learning Center: Institutes, training, webinars, etc.**

Online learning is available from the [ICC Learning Center](#). Find course [listings you'd like to attend](#) in the ICC Learning Center using the Search function. Single-day training events are an opportunity to focus on topics to ensure your code knowledge stays up to date, with some seminars offering a Virtual Classroom option so you can participate in the event from any location with an internet connection:

- September 1-2 - [2018 Permit Technician Institute](#).
- September 2 - [2021 IFC Significant Changes](#).
- September 2 - 2021 Commercial Building Inspector Webinar Series: [Building Planning](#).
- September 3 - [Report Writing for the Code Official](#).
- September 8 - 2021 Residential Building Inspector Webinar Series: [Building Planning, Part I](#).
- September 9 - [Officer Safety Procedures: HazMat, Hoarding & Joint Enforcement Safety](#).
- September 9 - 2021 Commercial Building Inspector Webinar Series: [Footings and Foundations](#).
- September 13-17 - [2018 Residential Building Inspection Institute](#).
- September 15 - 2021 Residential Building Inspector Webinar Series: [Building Planning, Part II](#).
- September 16 - 2021 Commercial Building Inspector Webinar Series: [Wall Construction](#).
- September 22 - 2021 Residential Building Inspector Webinar Series: [Chapters 4–10, Part I](#).
- September 23 - 2021 Commercial Building Inspector Webinar Series: [Public Safety and Special Construction, Part I](#).
- September 29 - 2021 Residential Building Inspector Webinar Series: [Chapters 4–10, Part II](#).
- September 30 - [Millennials in Code Enforcement](#).
- September 30 - 2021 Commercial Building Inspector Webinar Series: [Public Safety and Special Construction, Part II](#).
- October 4-8 - [2018 Residential Building Inspector B1 Certification Test Academy](#).
- October 6 - [Complaint Management from Start to Finish](#).
- October 6 - 2021 Residential Building Inspector Webinar Series: [Existing Buildings](#).
- October 13 - [2018 IBC Special Topics Day 1](#).
- October 14 - [2018 IBC Special Topics Day 2](#).
- October 19-21 - [2018 Permit Technician - 14 Certification Test Academy](#).
- October 27 - [Legal Aspects of Code Administration](#).

Check out more [upcoming learning opportunities here](#).