



Incentives Available for Stretch Code Construction

The Green Communities Act designates approval of the BBRIS Stretch Code, a new appendix to the MA State Building Code, as the preferred method for meeting the Criterion 5 requirement to minimize life-cycle energy costs for new construction. While there can be additional costs associated with implementing stretch code requirements in residential and commercial new construction and renovations, there are incentives available that can reduce up front costs of energy efficient technologies. In addition, the lower annual energy costs that result for buildings that meet the stretch code will more than offset the additional costs over the life of the building. This handout provides more information on available incentives.

Utility Programs

The Mass Save web site at www.masssave.com provides information on financial incentives, services, and trainings that promote energy efficiency in homes and businesses throughout the Commonwealth. Mass Save is a statewide energy efficiency program sponsored by your local utility or regional energy efficiency service organization. Contact information for specific utility programs can be found at www.masssave.com/contact/. Program representatives can provide guidance with the process of understanding and applying for incentives.

Residential - A number of programs are available for residential new construction and renovation, including those highlighted below:

- **The Massachusetts New Homes with ENERGY STAR® Program** – This program promotes the construction of homes that are built to achieve ENERGY STAR certification or incorporate other above-code energy efficiency standards. Incentives for energy-efficient new construction range from \$225 - \$8,000 per unit. Builders and HERS Raters generally coordinate to apply for incentives. For details, visit www.energystarhomes.com/homebuilders/value.htm. Call 800-628-8413 or email massenergystarhomes@icfi.com for additional information.
- **Residential High-Efficiency Heating Equipment Rebate Program** – Rebates of up to \$1,750 are available for heating and water heating equipment that meets or exceeds certain efficiency ratings. High efficiency equipment is generally necessary to meet stretch code requirements. For questions about eligible equipment, contact your professional heating contractor or call the GasNetworks Rebate Administrator at (800) 232-0672.
- **Major Renovations Program** – This program provides homeowners who are renovating, remodeling or making other home improvements (including those required under the stretch code) the opportunity to increase the energy performance of the home and receive financial incentives of over \$2,000. For details, visit www.energystarhomes.com/homebuyers/programs.htm or call 800-628-8413.

Commercial - Initiatives for large businesses, small businesses, and multi-family buildings sponsored by Massachusetts utilities and energy efficiency service providers include HVAC, Lighting, Insulation and Air

Sealing, Kitchen equipment, and Custom programs. Incentives for New Construction will vary, but are generally designed to cover up to 75% of the incremental cost of high efficiency equipment. Incentives for Retrofits are designed to cover up to 50% of the project cost. Visit www.masssave.com for incentive applications or contact your electric and gas utility for program details.

Federal Tax Incentives

The Tax Incentives Assistance Project (TIAP) is sponsored by a coalition of public interest nonprofit groups, government agencies, and other organizations in the energy efficiency field. It is designed to give consumers and businesses information they need to make use of the federal income tax incentives for energy efficient products and technologies. See <http://energytaxincentives.org/>.

Residential - Tax credits of up to \$1,500 are available for improvements to a home's envelope, as well as the installation of energy efficient heating and cooling equipment. For details, visit http://energytaxincentives.org/uploaded_files/residentialflyer.pdf.

Commercial - Businesses can get deductions for new or renovated buildings that save 50% or more of projected annual energy costs for heating, cooling, and lighting compared to model national standards, and partial deductions for efficiency improvements to individual lighting, HVAC and water heating, or envelope systems. For details, visit http://energytaxincentives.org/uploaded_files/commercialflyer.pdf.