NET ZERO BUILDING CODES

Net zero buildings are the future for better, more efficient building construction. Better buildings make our communities safer, healthier, and more climate-friendly.

WHAT IS A NET ZERO BUILDING?

A **net zero building** is extremely efficient and well-insulated, and gets all of its energy from **renewable sources**, either producing all of its energy onsite or purchasing renewable energy from nearby sources.

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WHY NET ZERO BUILDINGS?

In Massachusetts and across the United States, the building sector accounts for a big slice of our carbon pollution. By building **net zero buildings**, we can have a **huge impact** on reducing our pollution as a state, country, and planet. The international scientific consensus is that all buildings must be net zero by 2050.

The Hitchcock Center for the Environment in Amherst is one of several thriving **net zero buildings** in Massachusetts.

WE HAVE THE SOLUTIONS...

HOW DOES THE CODE GET US THERE?

Luckily, the technology to build net zero buildings is available **NOW**. **Net zero is not only technologically feasible, but cost-effective.** Building net zero means both a **huge reduction in carbon pollution**, and a **significant decrease in energy bills** for families across the state.

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FIND US ON...

@MASSCLIMATE

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HTTPS://WWW.MASSCLIMATEACTION.ORG/

NEXT STEPS: IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN WORKING WITH US TO SEE A NET ZERO STRETCH CODE IN MASSACHUSETTS, GET IN TOUCH WITH NETZERO@MASSCLIMATEACTION.NET

NET ZERO STRETCH CODE

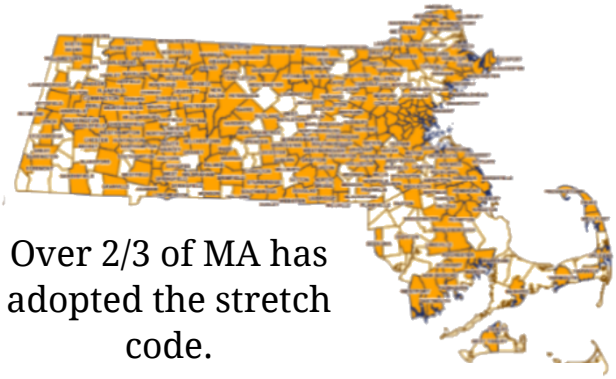
HOW DO WE GET A NET ZERO BUILDING CODE?

Massachusetts can get a net zero building code by passing a **net zero stretch code.**

The Board of Building Regulation and Standards (BBRS) created the **stretch code** in 2008. It was designed to give communities the opportunity to require higher energy efficiency standards for all new buildings. All Green Communities in MA are required to adopt the stretch code.

When it was developed, the stretch code represented a **significant leap** from the base code, meaning that communities that adopted the stretch code were building more energy-efficient buildings. However, due to the base code catching up, the **stretch code is no longer a significant improvement.**

STRETCH CODE COMMUNITIES



Over 2/3 of MA has adopted the stretch code.

TO HELP COMMUNITIES DO THE NET ZERO PLANNING THEY WANT TO DO, WE NEED A NET ZERO STRETCH CODE NOW.

H.2865/S.1935
AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A NET ZERO STRETCH ENERGY CODE
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- Directs the BBRS to **develop and pass a net zero stretch code** in consultation with the Department of Energy Resources, to be fully implemented by **2030**
- Considers the feedback of environmental justice communities to ensure that the Net Zero stretch code is **equitable for all**, especially low-income families
- Allows a **phase-in period** for existing Green Communities, and the option for towns and cities to adopt the code on the **community level**

Further Reading

• https://www.energy.gov/eere/buildings/zero-energy-buildings
• https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/oct/08/we-must-reduce-greenhouse-gas-emissions-to-net-zero-or-face-more-floods
• https://www.wbur.org/cognoscenti/2018/10/17/boston-climate-change-joan-fitzgerald-henrietta-davis?platform=hootsuite
• https://www.nrdc.org/experts/pierre-delforge/ca-building-code-takes-big-step-toward-net-zero-energy
https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2018/11/28/stretch-code-towns-adoption-by-community-map-and-list.pdf

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