

Why does the Stretch Energy Code focus on building high-performance, energy-efficient buildings?

Building high-quality, high-performance, highly energy-efficient buildings addresses many of the challenges we face today, including lowering our energy bills, providing insulation from future energy price shocks, lowering our dependence on foreign oil, enhancing national security, building a strong local economy with sustainable local jobs, while providing cleaner air and a healthier environment. On top of that, if the climate scientists are right, it is one of the best things we can do to start solving the most serious environmental problem we've ever faced.

When you look into it you'll find that approximately 40% of the nation's energy is used in our residential and commercial buildings, and in residential communities with relatively little industry, over 60% of our energy is used by our residential and commercial buildings. In New England, over half of the energy used in our buildings is used for heating and cooling, which means that over 30% of the energy used in our communities is dedicated to heating and cooling our buildings.

That makes heating and cooling our residential and commercial buildings the largest single line item in our overall energy consumption as a town. By far the best way to reduce the costs of heating and cooling our buildings is by designing and building energy efficiency into our residential and commercial buildings from the start. That's what the Stretch Energy Code is all about.