



# Illinois Climate Action Network

## Illinois CAN

### H.B. 3987: The Energy Efficient Building Act

**What:** The Energy Efficient Building Act sets statewide energy efficiency standards for new residential construction, reducing strain on our power plants—and curbing associated smog, soot, mercury, and global warming pollution—while also lowering the monthly cost of home ownership.

**How:** Sponsored by Rep. Julie Hamos (D-Evanston), this Act requires Illinois to adopt the latest national model energy efficiency code—the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC)—for new residential construction. *Illinois is one of only nine states without any statewide efficiency standards for new homes.*

**Why:** Building energy consumption represents 40% of the total U.S. energy use. Inefficiency causes increased pollution and prohibitively expensive utility bills for Illinois families, creating a barrier to new home ownership. **At least \$3.1 billion of federal stimulus money is tied to states like Illinois adopting the 2009 IECC for new residential construction.**

#### **Significant Economic Benefits**

A 2007 study found that Illinois homes built under the 2006 IECC standards save homeowners **up to \$472 annually** in utility bills over current construction practice. Any additional construction costs pay for themselves within three years or sooner—and the 2009 IECC is 12% to 15% stronger on energy efficiency.

#### **Bill Specifics:**

- Establishes statewide energy efficiency standards for residential construction by adopting the latest national model code (IECC), updated every three years.
- Allows a municipality with existing residential energy efficiency standards at least as stringent as the 2006 IECC to continue regulating energy efficiency under those standards.

**Proponents:** Environment Illinois, Environmental Law & Policy Center, Home Builders Association of Illinois, American Institute of Architects—Illinois, Illinois ASHRAE, Housing Action Illinois, Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance, Illinois Environmental Council, NRDC, and many others.

**The Bottom Line:** Illinois has fallen behind its peers in energy efficiency, and HB 3987 is a common-sense solution. Hundreds of millions of federal stimulus dollars are at stake.

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