

Federal Funds for Louisiana Energy Efficiency

By Carl Smith

Which states could gain the most from modern energy codes? Historic federal investments aim to improve building efficiency standards. A new report highlights the states that could benefit the most. An analysis by the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy determined that the state of Louisiana has the most to gain from adopting the recent building energy codes. But updating the codes won't be quick or easy, say experts.

Buildings account for thirty-five percent of United States carbon emissions and seventy-six percent of electricity use. According to the latest projections from the US Energy Information Administration, even by 2050, as much electricity will come from fossil fuels (forty-four percent) as from renewable sources.

Building standards that incorporate the best available strategies for energy efficiency are essential to reducing emissions, not to mention operating costs. But according to the Building Codes Assistance Project, only two states have

adopted the most recent residential and commercial energy codes.

In July, the US Department of Energy (DOE) announced plans to provide \$225 million in Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funds to state and local governments to "expand the implementation of the latest building energy codes." Concept papers for the first \$45 million in grants are due at the end of January. The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) provides \$1 billion more to advance standards for commercial buildings.

The new analysis by the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE) identifies which states stand to gain the most by accessing these funds, taking into account factors such as existing codes, construction activity, and climate policies.

The states with the greatest potential upside have varied political landscapes and circumstances around emissions, said study author Michael Waite, senior manager in ACEEE'S buildings program. Five are home rule states, not empowered to mandate code implementation on a statewide basis.

"There are benefits across the country, for a diverse group of states," says Waite.



Code Adoption Is Just the Beginning
Code adoption occurs in the context of state commitments to sustainability. The ACEEE analysis found that almost half of the states in the US have not yet set 2030 targets for emissions reduction, a

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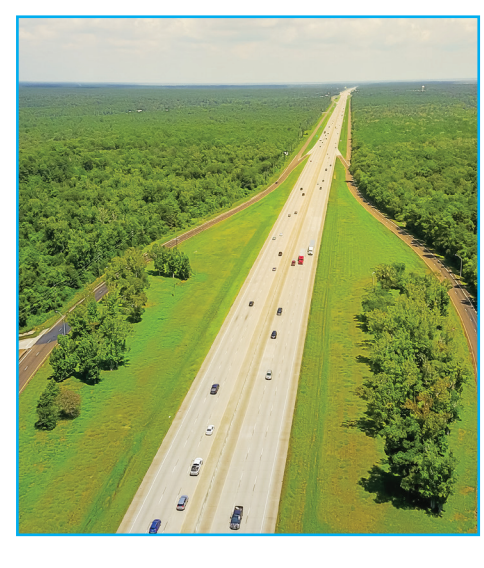
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Selling to the Federal Government Webinar
Thursday, January 26, 2023, 12:00 pm–3:00 pm CST Online
Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration
Contact: George Tapia, 610-382-3086, george.tapia@sba.gov
Fee: Free; registration required
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Federal Contracting: Veteran Small Business Certification Program Webinar
Wednesday, February 15, 2023, 12:00 pm–1:30 pm CST Online
Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration
Contact: Stephanie Workman, 478-919-7652, stephanie.workman@sba.gov
Fee: Free; registration required

Getting Registered into the System for Awards Management (SAM.gov) Webinar
Tuesday, February 21, 2023, 10:00 am–11:00 am CST Online
Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration, West Virginia Women's Business Center
Contact: Melissa Loder, 304-623-7448, Melissa.Loder@sba.gov
Fee: Free; registration required
The West Virginia Women's Business Center is hosting a valuable webinar on the System for Awards Management (SAM.gov). Join us as Melissa Loder (SBA's West Virginia District Office) and Sommer Straight (RCAC Procurement Technical Assistance Center—PTAC) guide you through how to register for your SAM.gov account. They will also provide tips, FAQs, and directions on where to get additional assistance, as well as answer questions you may have. To register, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/getting-registered-in-the-system-for-award-management-samgov-tickets-483757992177>

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