

## Energy-Efficient Buildings: Building Our Way to a Stronger Ohio

### Overview



Buildings in the U.S. use 10% of the world's energy, one-third of total US energy, and two-thirds of total U.S. electricity. Buildings also generate 40% of the country's global warming pollution.

Though new buildings only represent 1% of the building stock, improvements in building code requirements have lasting effects, without ongoing administration costs.

According to a study by energy economist Dr. Jerry Jackson of Texas A & M University, Ohio ranked 31<sup>st</sup> in

building efficiency with only one-fifth of commercial buildings exceeding the Energy Star standards.

Investments in energy efficiency during construction are most cost effective and provide the greatest long-term economic and environmental benefits to the building owners.

The state of Ohio should strengthen energy efficiency standards for all residential construction and state-funded buildings.

### Recommendations for the Residential Building Code

- Adopt the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code
- Have our nation's foremost experts in energy efficiency, architectural design and construction, and building performance create a well-vetted, consensus-driven code adoption process that is inclusive of consumer, environmental, and industry advocates

### Benefits

- Protects homebuyers from high energy costs, reducing risk of foreclosure
- Supports Ohio jobs for the design and manufacturing of insulation and other efficiency technologies, AND it provides Ohio a competitive edge in these industries
- Reduces health and environmental effects of increased energy consumption
- Guarantees our eligibility for \$96.1 million dollars in state energy grants through the federal stimulus package

### Recommendations for State-Funded Building Projects

- Support Ohio House Bill 7, which requires state-funded building projects to be built to LEED silver standards.
- Because some project managers and Ohio businesses may prefer other metrics such as Green Globe or ASHRAE plus 30%, amend the bill to be inclusive of other sustainable building programs.

### Benefits

- Gives Ohio a competitive edge in designing, manufacturing, and constructing efficiency technologies
- Reduces agency/organizational budget shortfalls by controlling escalating energy costs
- Optimizes the energy performance of buildings throughout the state
- Establishes a metric that guarantees results, which can be measured and used to monitor effectiveness of program
- Provides flexibility through the suggested amendment