Utah Commission Adopts a More Energy-Efficient Building Code

Utah is required to update its residential building code every six years. The public hearing hosted by the Utah Uniform Building Code Commission revolved around the adoption of the 2021 International Energy Conservation Code recommendations for new commercial and residential buildings, KUER 90.1 reports.

IECC's big suggestions include installing more ceiling and wall insulation in new construction, strategically placing windows and doors in areas that retain heat and updating HVAC and duct systems to maximize energy savings.

The commission made amendments to the recommendations, including reducing the amount of insulation proposed and maintaining the same testing regulations for duct systems. It also opted not to test mechanical ventilation systems in new homes.

The commission approved their amended version of the code and sent it off to the Utah Legislature's Business and Labor Interim Committee for approval. If approved, lawmakers will vote on the code during the 2023 legislative session. Read more.

What is the Plan for Utah Lake?

A gravel path stretches out south from the Lindon Marina, tracing a wobbly line along the eastern shore of Utah Lake. Calm waters reflect the saw-toothed silhouettes of the Wasatch Range, framed by rust-colored reeds and the feeling that — even though you are very much in the middle of a valley filled with ribbons of highways, dense housing and hundreds of thousands of people — you're among nature.
In the coming decades, this serene place could be disrupted by the din of one of the largest development projects in Utah history, according to a *Deseret News* article. If Lake Restorations Solutions, a Utah-based business, has its way, 60 dredgers could soon be digging into the lake, scooping up enough mud to fill 300,000 Olympic swimming pools. According to an application received by the US Army Corps of Engineers earlier this year, this lakebed mud would then be chiseled into artificial islands, which would cover one-fifth of Utah Lake’s surface. A sprawling subdivision connected by roadways and bridges would rise as hundreds of thousands of people move into newly built homes. Read more.

---

**Utah Eligible for Over $5M for Mining Land Reclamation**

The Department of the Interior announced that Utah is eligible to receive over $5 million in funding for projects dedicated to reclaiming abandoned mine lands, the *Standard-Examiner* reports.

The $5,769,000 comes from nearly $725 million made available to 22 states and the Navajo Nation by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act with the intent of creating more economic opportunities in coal communities across the nation.

"Through this program, we are investing in coal communities through job creation — including for current and former coal workers — and economic revitalization, all while addressing harmful environmental impacts from these legacy developments," Secretary Deb Haaland said in a press release. "We encourage all eligible states and Tribes to apply for this funding so we can reduce hazardous pollution and toxic water levels that continue to impact our communities."

Abandoned mine land reclamation projects include closing potentially dangerous mine shafts, reclaiming unstable slopes, preventing releases of harmful gases, treating acid mine drainage and restoring water supplies damaged by mining. Read more.

---

NSPE’s *Job Board* is your one-stop resource for professional engineering employment. Whether you are on the hunt for your next career move or looking for today’s top engineering leaders and talent, you will find it here.
NSPE provides the tools PEs need to keep current in the profession and advance their careers.

**Featured Job**
Site Development Project Manager/Team Leader
Salt Lake City, UT

*Find more job openings or reach the right employees on the NSPE Job Board.*

*Stay up to date on legislative issues through the NSPE Advocacy Center.*

---

**Honoring Excellence in the Profession**

NSPE members were honored for their outstanding contributions to the profession during NSPECon22 in Philadelphia.

**NSPE Award**

Howard (Skip) Harclerode II, P.E., F.NSPE, F.AIChE, received the Society’s most prestigious award presented to a professional engineer who has been committed to the profession, public welfare, and humankind. Harclerode, the founder and president of KBD Engineering Company Inc., based in Phoenix, Maryland, has been an active member of NSPE and the Maryland Society of Professional Engineers since 1980. He is also a past chair of the Maryland Board for Professional Engineers.

**Engineering Education Excellence Award**

Mohamed El-Sayed, Ph.D., P.E., a professor of mechanical engineering at Eastern Michigan University, received this award for licensed engineering faculty who have demonstrated the ability to link engineering education with professional practice. El-Sayed has vast technical and industrial expertise in the areas of vehicle realization, quality, reliability, durability, and optimization. He has also worked in various positions in the automotive industry. He has several granted patents, one authored book, and over a hundred technical and educational publications.

**New Professional of the Year Award**

This award recognizes a young NSPE member who has made outstanding contributions to the engineering profession and the community during the early years of one’s career.
Holly Ahumada, P.E., CFM, is employed with Freese and Nichols in the firm’s stormwater group. Throughout her career, Ahumada has specialized in stormwater and floodplain management, as well as supporting public entities with long-term planning, and the analysis and mitigation of flooding issues. She is an active member of the Fort Worth Chapter of the Texas Society of Professional Engineers and serves as the chapter’s president.

Dylan Ward, P.E., MPA, is a project manager for the City of Henderson in Kentucky and oversees the Engineering, Mass Transit, and Safety/Training divisions. For the Kentucky Society of Professional Engineers, he serves as vice president for the Western Region and is president of the Green River Chapter.

Fact Check: The Myths of Anti-Licensing

Time and again, calls for anti-licensing return to a handful of myths and purported problems that can only be solved by drastically weakening or outright eliminating licensing. The NSPE-led Alliance for Responsible Professional Licensing takes a closer look at those myths and sets the record straight.

Myth #1: Education requirements to obtain licenses are too onerous and arbitrary.

Fact: Some occupations are rightly calling for a careful review and recalibration of the education requirements to become licensed. This is what should be done. It is not, however, what anti-licensors are calling for. What anti-licensing seeks to do is broadly and arbitrarily lower education standards for all professions. Some proposals go so far as to disallow minimum education requirements for highly complex, technical professions that impact public safety and welfare.

Myth #2: Licensing creates an undue burden for spouses of military personnel who have to contend with red tape and new costs every time they move.

Fact: Well-designed professional licensing systems already include interstate practice and mobility and provisions for military spouses. The real threat comes from “universal licensing” proposals that would dilute existing mobility systems that have been working well for military personnel and the public for decades. What’s more, some of these proposals impose arbitrary residency requirements that create new barriers to practicing that would otherwise not exist. Most importantly, “universal licensing” will create a race to the bottom, hurt the public’s welfare, and
create business insurance and liability implications.

**Myth #3: Licensing creates barriers to employment for women, minorities, and the socio-economically disadvantaged.**

**Fact:** Licensing helps level the playing field for women and minorities. A 2021 study by Oxford Economics finds that licensing narrows the gender-driven wage gap by about a third and the race-driven wage gap by about half. In any industry, responsible licensing systems create well-defined career paths for workers—regardless of gender or ethnicity—and opportunities to achieve higher earnings.

**Myth #4: Licensing is anti-competitive.**

**Fact:** Licensing is pro-consumer and pro-competition because it enables consumers to choose from a pool of qualified licensed professionals. These qualifications are verified upfront by independent licensing boards composed of experts in a given professional field. Licensing also helps level the playing field for women and minorities, increasing fairness, competition, and merit-based career opportunities.

Read more on the truth about professional licensing.

---

**EJCDC Documents: 2022 Construction Manager as Advisor Series**

The Engineers Joint Contract Documents Committee has released the 2022 Construction Manager as Advisor Series. This series is completely new to EJCDC and is intended for projects in which the owner’s primary representative during construction will be the Construction Manager as Advisor (CM).

The CM as Advisor Series is an alternative to the use of the EJCDC Construction Series, in which the engineer that prepared the design subsequently serves as the owner’s construction contract administrator. The CM as Advisor Series is comprised of contract documents, administrative forms, bonds, bidding, and procurement documents.

**Shop now and save.**