

COMMERCIAL BUILDING ENERGY CODE FIELD STUDY

STUDY HIGHLIGHTS

Sampling across two climate zones and multiple states, research will establish:



1. A cost-effective, replicable methodology to assess the energy impact of code compliance



2. An understanding of the costs, barriers, and accuracy of various data collection methods



3. An understanding of common issues with energy code compliance



4. Education and training strategies to address and overcome compliance issues

Buildings account for roughly 40 percent of the nation's energy consumption. Enhancing their efficiency will lead to a stronger economy, a cleaner environment, and significant energy savings. With this goal in mind, the U.S. Department of Energy has provided funding to conduct a commercial field study, with the primary goal of developing and testing a methodology to accurately and cost-effectively measure the impact of code compliance on commercial buildings. The participation of builders, owners, and building departments is crucial in supporting this important activity.

SEEKING INPUT: COOPERATION & CONFIDENTIALITY

Cooperation from builders and local building departments is essential to the success of the study. Key benefits include access to more targeted training opportunities, and greater knowledge about commercial energy use in the state.

The recorded data will not include any identifiable information (e.g., addresses, or code official, designer or owner names). The purpose of the study is to use the data to refine a developed methodology. Results will be analyzed at a climate zone (multi-state) level, and individual building or jurisdiction compliance will not be evaluated.

Building Departments: A representative from the project team will contact you to request the necessary list of addresses and contact information for projects in your region. In most cases, this is the only information needed from local building departments. In addition, field teams may request your cooperation in getting access to building sites.

Designers and Builders: Members of the local field team may contact you to request access to selected sites. Individual projects are selected randomly based on current construction happening in your region, as reported by local building departments.

For more information on the study, visit: <https://www.energy.gov/eere/buildings/downloads/commercial-field-study>



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