Transitioning to Healthy and Sustainable Buildings
Cost-Effective Energy Efficiency Requirements

About the Cost-Effective Energy Efficiency Requirements

The City's General Plan calls for improved building energy efficiency and the City's Climate Action Plan includes Measure 1.2 to decarbonize new building development. The 2025 Green Building Code (CALGreen) contains various new requirements for building construction.

In addition to these minimum mandatory building code requirements, the City has adopted supplemental cost-effective energy efficiency requirements in the 2025 Building Code Update.

Process for implementing cost-effective energy efficiency requirements

Timeline

2025 Building Code
Fall / Winter 2025

2025 Land Development Code Update
Fall 2025 / Winter 2026

Evaluation for additional measures
Ongoing

2025 Building Code: Statewide 2025 Green Building Code (CALGreen)

Measures	Applicability	Description
Water Heating	Multi-family Residential; Hotels; New Construction	Central systems are prescriptively required to be heat pumps. Gas systems must be electric-ready.
Space Heating	Non-Residential; New Construction	For Single Zone up to 240,000 Btu/hr or less, heat pump are prescribed. Multi-zone systems require a heat pump* or equally efficient gas system *Exceptions: Buildings greater than 150kp sq ft. and Schools in Climate Zone 7
Space and Water Heating	Single-family Residential; New Construction	Both space and water heating: Heat pumps
EV-capable[1]	Non-Residential; New Construction	20% of parking spaces must be EV-capable; 50% of EV-capable spaces must have Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment (EVSE), except Office and Retail uses which must have 75% of EV-capable spaces with EVSE.
EV-ready[2]	Multi-family Residential; New Construction	One parking space EV-ready (Low Power Level 2) for each dwelling unit. EVSE at 25% of spaces.
EV-ready[2]	Hotels and Motels; New Construction	40% of parking spaces must be EV-ready for Low Power Level 2; 25% of EV-ready spaces must have EVSE.
Pool/Spa Heaters	All Buildings; New Construction	Solar thermal, heat pump pool heater (HPPH), or on-site renewable/recovered energy systems for heating pools and spas (excluding portable electric spas) with specific efficiency, sizing, and control standards.

[1]**EV-capable space**: includes the electrical capacity and conduit, but no wiring or outlet, allowing for future installation of an EV charger

[2]**EV-ready space:** includes the panel capacity, wiring, and conduit, but also terminates with a 240-volt outlet or junction box, requiring only the charger to become operational

2025 Building Code: Supplemental Cost-Effective Energy Efficiency Requirements

GBC Measure	Applicability	Description
Cool roofs **Payback** 4 - 10 yrs	Non-Residential; Alterations / Additions	Enhanced cool roof requirements when roof alterations exceed 50% of roof area or 2,000+ sq ft.
High-rise Hot Water Performance **Payback** • All-electric - At installation • Mixed fuel Systems - 30 yrs	High-rise Residential; New Construction	New high-rise residential buildings with central hot water systems to achieve 5% enhanced energy performance beyond Title 24 requirements.