

Colorado Codes - Affordability, Resilience, and Sustainability

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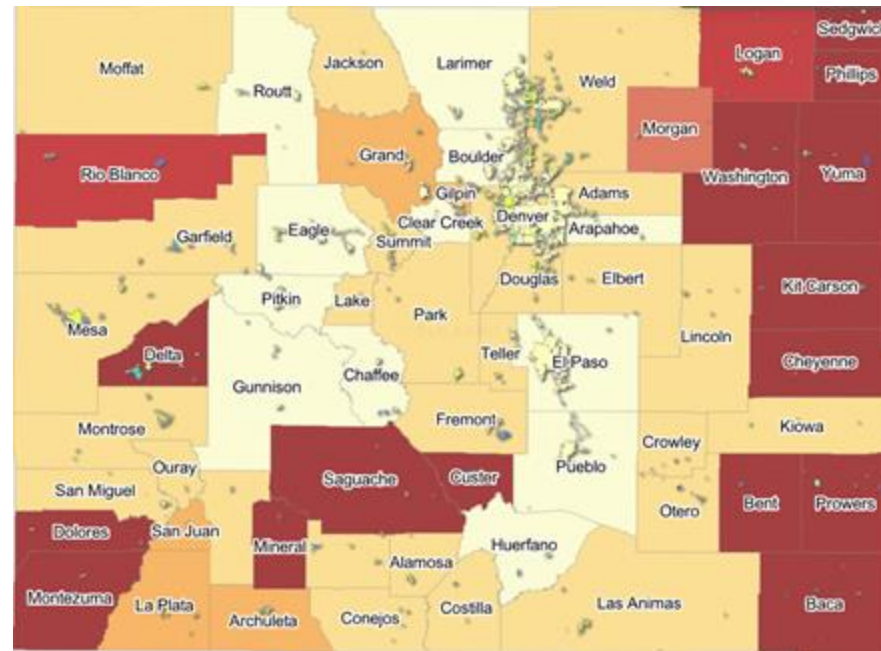


COLORADO
Energy Office



Colorado Code Adoption & Enforcement Structure

- Home Rule
- Compliance/enforcement handled at the local level
- State law requires adoption of:
 - Minimum energy code upon local adoption/update of any other building code
 - Wildfire Resiliency Code by April 1, 2026 for jurisdictions in the wildland-urban interface area



Model Electric Ready and Solar Ready Code

- Preparedness for future electrification and on-site renewable energy - currently part of Colorado's minimum code
- Requirements for pre-wiring new residential and commercial buildings for future:
 - Electric space heating, water heating, cooking, and clothes drying equipment
 - Rooftop solar photovoltaic or solar thermal systems
 - Electric vehicle charging equipment
- Future considerations for inclusion of battery storage readiness



Model Low Energy and Carbon Code

- Colorado's next minimum energy code - takes effect July 1, 2026
- Building resilience
 - Thermal envelope and air leakage
 - Indoor air quality
 - Comfort
- Grid resilience
 - Demand response readiness
 - Optimizing new electrical loads
 - Building thermal efficiency reduces overall loads



Wildfire Resiliency Code

- Applies to new construction and additions, as well as external building alterations and repairs
- Intended to reduce the the risks to life and property from the effects of wildfires
- The code addresses:
 - Fire-resistant building materials
 - Best construction practices to prevent ignition and ember infiltration
 - Defensible space surrounding buildings
- Required only for jurisdictions in the state-defined WUI



Affordability Considerations

- Balancing first costs for efficiency and resilience measures
- Affordability benefits from improved efficiency and resilience of new homes:
 - Lower energy bills
 - Lower insurance rates and increasing likelihood of insurability
 - Reduced maintenance
 - Improved health outcomes from better indoor air quality and limiting exposure to pollutants and wildfire smoke



Thank You!

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