

2024 IECC

NBI has submitted proposals into the ICC process to advance the 2024 IECC. The proposed amendments cover a wide range of measures and improve the code by adding additional efficiency, clarifying requirements, and creating greater flexibility for code users and local jurisdictions. Learn more at newbuildings.org/code_policy/2024-iecc-national-model-energy-code-base-codes.

Code Change Title: Biomass Waste Definition CEPI-12-21 Part II

Summary: Adds definition of biomass waste and clarifies definition of renewable energy resources.

Add new definition as follows:

BIOMASS WASTE. Organic non-fossil material of biological origin that is a byproduct or a discarded product. Biomass waste includes municipal solid waste from biogenic sources, landfill gas, sludge waste, agricultural crop byproducts, straw, and other biomass solids, liquids, and biogases; but excludes wood and wood-derived fuels (including black liquor), biofuel, feedstock, biodiesel, and fuel ethanol.

Revise definition as follows:

RENEWABLE ENERGY RESOURCES. Energy derived from solar radiation, wind, waves, tides, ~~landfill gas, biogas,~~ biomass waste or extracted from hot fluid or steam heated within the earth.

There is currently no definition for biomass in the residential IECC even though biomass was recently listed as a potential renewable energy resource. Because there are many flavors of biomass, it is important for the IECC to clarify which forms of biomass energy count towards reducing a residential buildings' ERI score. The revision limits the biomass sources that count as renewable energy resources to those that are specified as waste products and ensures that virgin material of unknown origin does not count as a steady source of renewable energy. Without an available standard to cite in the IECC for sustainable biomass, it is critical to ensure that biomass used in compliance with the IECC is derived from waste products or byproducts. The definition of biomass waste is taken from the glossary of the Energy Information Administration. A similar amendment has been submitted to amend the commercial IECC to ensure the definition of renewable energy resources is consistent between the two codes.