

## STRETCH ENERGY CODE to Acton Town Meeting April 5 & 6

Acton voters have the chance to adopt a more cost-effective, greener building code at April's Town Meeting. This important proposal allows Acton to achieve a higher energy efficiency standard within the Town's building code, and will result in:

- saving money by reducing energy bills for Acton homeowners and businesses
- reducing unnecessary use of fossil fuels
- reducing carbon emissions.

The ongoing savings through reduced energy costs rapidly offset the modest initial cost for new construction and additions, and significant savings continue to add up throughout the lifetime of each building.

The measure will strengthen our local/regional economy by:

- keeping dollars in our households & community instead of purchasing unneeded imported oil
- creating jobs in the weatherization/energy sector
- energy upgrading of Acton's building stock, enhancing the security and value of Acton and its homes into the future

Note these features of the new Stretch Energy Code:

- no retrofit required to existing homes
- no effect on the sale of existing homes
- no expansion in scope of building code
- 20-35% higher energy efficiency required in new construction
- affects existing homes only in additions & major renovations, and only for the items/systems under renovation (e.g., no need to upgrade windows if no windows being replaced)
- exemption for historic buildings
- increased local control (e.g., 40B projects would have to meet the local Stretch Energy Code)
- leads to Acton's eligibility for a portion of annual \$10M Green Community grant money (to be divided among qualifying Green Communities)

For more information:

[www.acton-ma.gov](http://www.acton-ma.gov)

Stretch Code FAQ's & presentations from Acton Public Hearing 2.1.10

<http://www.cambridgema.gov/~CDD/et/stretchcode/>

Excellent resources from City of Cambridge website

[http://www.mass.gov/Eoeea/docs/doer/gca/stretch\\_code\\_overview\\_052909.pdf](http://www.mass.gov/Eoeea/docs/doer/gca/stretch_code_overview_052909.pdf)

Stretch Code Summary

Questions? Contact the co-chairs of the Acton Green Advisory Board

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