



## **Build Smart from the Start**

### **SB 869**

**SB 869 (Build Smart from the Start) ensures new buildings in Oregon are constructed energy efficiently and are more resilient to climate impacts.**

#### **Problem:**

- Buildings are the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest source of carbon emissions in Oregon, so sustained progress in this sector is crucial to meeting our state's climate goals. Approximately a third of buildings that will exist in Oregon in 2050 have yet to be built and will last for decades.
- With impacts of climate change on Oregonians growing worse each year, improvements can be made on how we currently construct new homes and buildings to keep Oregonians safer from increased incidents of extreme heat, wildfire smoke, water shortage, and other harms.
- Low-income Oregonians and communities of color are bearing the brunt of the climate crisis with higher costs for housing and utilities, worse air quality, and worse health outcomes. We need to focus on making sure these frontline communities have resilient homes and affordable energy bills.
- With the increased frequency of dangerous smoke levels, and rising concerns about indoor air quality, further work on ventilation and air filtration standards is needed to ensure safety and comfort of Oregonians.

#### **Solution:**

- Executive Order 20-04 requires the Building Codes Division (BCD), through its advisory boards, to evaluate and report on Oregon's current progress toward achieving climate goals for new residential and commercial buildings, and options for achieving that goal.
- Direct BCD to continue this work, and to consider both energy efficiency and embodied carbon.
- Align Oregon's Building Codes with the state's greenhouse gas reduction goals, codify the energy efficiency targets within EO 20-04, and maintain alignment with national professional industry standards.
- Direct BCD to study possible updates to ventilation and air filtration standards for indoor air quality.

#### **What is Embodied Carbon?**

- Greenhouse gas emissions from the manufacture, transport, installation, and disposal/recovery of construction materials.
- Accounts for 8% of carbon emissions from Oregon buildings. (See, Department of Environmental Quality [presentation](#) to the Resilient Efficient Buildings Task Force)

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**Rebuilding Task Force Background:**

Energy consumption in buildings is responsible for nearly 35 percent of annual Oregon greenhouse gas emissions. The Resilient Efficient Buildings Task Force was created in 2022 by Senate Bill 1518 to identify and evaluate policies related to building codes and building decarbonization for new and existing buildings that would enable the state to meet its greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals while maximizing additional benefits such as increasing energy efficiency, improving climate resilience, improving public health and air quality, and reducing the percentage of household income that is spent on energy costs. Co-Chairs Lieber and Marsh identified policy areas that would have significant impact on emissions reductions and community resilience. Those areas will be contained in four bills, SB 668, SB 669, SB 670 and SB 671. Legislative Counsel is still working on initial language.

**Sponsors:** Senator Lieber and Representative Marsh

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