



## California Building Standards Commission

**About CBSC:** Established in 1953 by the California Building Standards Law, the California Building Standards Commission (CBSC) is an independent commission within the State and Consumer Services Agency. Commission members are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the State Senate.

CBSC is responsible for administering California's building standards adoption, publication, and implementation processes of the California Code of Regulations, Title 24, also known as the California Building Standards Code. Unless exempted by law, all buildings in California are required to comply with the standards contained in Title 24. Specifically, buildings that the state has the authority to regulate are required to comply with the model code provisions and amendments adopted by the state, whereas buildings the state does not have the authority to regulate are required to comply only with the model codes as they are referenced in Title 24.

**Mission Statement:** CBSC's mission is to produce sensible and usable state building standards and administrative regulations that implement or enforce those standards.

**Vision:** CBSC's vision is to ensure that the statewide building code development and adoption process is efficient and effective. To ensure that state building codes reflect California's interests, CBSC is committed to encouraging the participation of California's representatives in the development of model codes.

**Green Building Standards:** Since he has been in office, Governor Schwarzenegger has issued two executive orders relating to the efficiency of buildings in California. In 2004, Executive Order S-20-04 created the "Green Building Action Team" to establish efficiency measures for state buildings. In 2005, Executive Order S-03-05 established the "Climate Action Team" (CAT) and called for an overall reduction in green house gas emissions in California. Under the guidance of the Green Building Action Team, the Department of General Services established green building policies and standards for new and existing state buildings. The Governor has established policies that strongly support environmental issues. This includes his signature on California's landmark bill, AB32, which establishes a comprehensive program of cost-effective reductions of greenhouse gases.

**CBSC and Green Building Standards:** CBSC staff is currently working with CAT and the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to ensure that the commission's efforts on green building standards are factored into the program designed to meet the goals of AB32. To advance the goals, in 2007 CBSC acted to move forward with other agencies and stakeholders with green building standards, to be published in Title 24, California Building Standards Code, Part 11, which was vacant.

### Questions and Answers:

**Q:** "What is the 2008 California Green Building Standards (**CALGREEN**) Code?"

**A:** Published in Part 11 of Title 24, the **CALGREEN** Code contains primarily voluntary green building standards for nonresidential occupancies (CBSC) and hospitals (Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development), and mandatory standards with delayed effective dates for low-rise residential (Department of Housing and Community Development). It includes provisions for Site Design, Energy Efficiency, Water Conservation, Materials Conservation, and Environmental Quality, with matrix tables to assist the user to determine each agency's adoptions. It becomes effective on August 1, 2009, at which time local jurisdictions may choose to adopt it or parts of it by ordinance.

**Q:** "How did the **CALGREEN** Code come about?"

**A:** During the summer of 2007, CBSC and the other agencies convened stakeholder workshops to develop a primarily voluntary framework for the **CALGREEN** code. Working with additional agencies such as CARB, the Energy Commission, and the Department of Water Resources, they developed standards for public comment in a regulatory rulemaking process. As the final step in the process, CBSC adopted the code in July of 2008 in a unanimous vote.

**Q:** "What is next for the **CALGREEN** Code?"

**A:** In veto messages on several green building bills sent to him in 2007, Governor Schwarzenegger stated: "It is imperative to expedite the greening of California's building standards. As such, I am directing the California Building Standards Commission to work with specified state agencies on the adoption of green building standards for residential, commercial, and public building construction for the 2010 code adoption process." To that end, CBSC and the other agencies are further developing the framework to include mandatory measures in the 2010 **CALGREEN** Code. Stakeholder workshops begin March 26, with technical review and public comment scheduled for later in the year. The 2010 version is planned to become effective on January 1, 2011.

**Q:** "How can I obtain a copy of the **CALGREEN** Code?"

**A:** You may purchase a copy from the publisher at: <http://www.iccsafe.org/> or a technical bookstore, or download it from CBSC's website at: [http://www.bsc.ca.gov/title\\_24/t24\\_2007tried.htm](http://www.bsc.ca.gov/title_24/t24_2007tried.htm)

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