

Building Energy Codes Portal Methodology

This Building Energy Codes Portal is a project of the Building Energy Efficiency Taskgroup (BEET) of the International Partnership for Energy Efficiency Cooperation (IPEEC), in partnership with the Global Buildings Performance Network (GBPN) and the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL). The objective of the portal is to facilitate international collaboration on building energy code¹ implementation. The design and development of the site benefitted from the input of participating governments and non-governmental building energy experts. The portal resides on the GBPN website www.gbpn.org to consolidate related resources and leverage existing site functionality (e.g., searching and formatting). Further development of the portal is envisioned as in the table below.

The portal features a network of experts to help link code practitioners and policymakers with resources and other professionals with relevant expertise. Experts were identified by BEET, GBPN, and PNNL project team members. While non-governmental experts have in many cases been nominated by governmental representatives, they do not represent the views of governments.

The portal also features summaries of code implementation practices in major economies, both in a searchable online format and a comprehensive downloadable document. Experts from GBPN and PNNL compiled the country code information, which in many cases was then peer-reviewed by BEET representatives. Though, the information does not represent the views of governments.

Scope of Web Portal

Stage 1: Initial Features	Dedicated web portal including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Policy datasheets with a search function by topic, country or key-word; (suggested topics: History & Scope; Code Development, Code Implementation, Compliance & Enforcement; Training & Education; Building Materials Testing, Rating, and Labeling) - Resource Library including links to reports and websites; - Network of experts contacts page - Web forum function enabling registered users to post comments, questions and responses.
Stage 2: Potential Development	Web portal could be further developed to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Experiences, best-practice guide or toolkit, webinar presentations, translations, expert network forum, links to supporting tools and actions to improve code design, implementation, compliance and monitoring, capacity building and education - Accessing expertise and convening stakeholders and decision-makers - Matchmaking between funding opportunities, project proponents - Capacity building and education tools and materials - Index of regional, national and sub-national policy support programs, networks and information.

In order to share consistent and well-organized information on practices in the 22 countries covered, the project team developed a standardized data collection approach, focusing on key elements

¹ Building energy codes describe requirements for building components or the whole building that ensure a minimum level of energy efficiency. Examples include requirements for specific levels of insulation or requirements for the overall projected level of energy use in a building.

related to implementation of building energy codes. The project team worked to clearly reflect the experience of each country within standard categories. The categories and related terminology are designed to be easily understood across jurisdictions, though in some cases other terms may also be used to reflect similar concepts within a given jurisdiction.

It is important to note some of the challenges in developing country code summaries. For example, as noted on the portal, a few participating countries do not have mandatory building energy codes at present. Further, many countries have a federal form of governance in which only subnational jurisdictions can adopt and enforce a building energy codes (often when this is the case, not all local jurisdictions have a building energy code). In other countries, a building energy code may be nominally mandatory, but enforcement may be dependent on self-certification. The project team tried to capture these nuances within the concise format of the code summaries.

Approaches to building regulation also vary by country. For example, many European countries have building energy codes, but all European countries have requirements for Energy Performance Certificates. The two policies may be linked in terms of implementation, but they represent different approaches to improving energy efficiency in buildings. Energy Performance Certificates represent labels with information on the likely performance of a building, while building energy codes set specific minimum requirements. On this portal, these policies are distinguished and the focus is primarily on building energy code compliance.

Finally, while every attempt has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information and analysis presented, data gaps still exist. It is hoped that these gaps can be addressed with ongoing engagement from participating countries and the network of experts.