



TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON

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Town of East Hampton supports ‘green building,’ reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, with adoption of the N.Y. Stretch Energy Code

New standards, effective in 2022, will require new or substantially reconstructed buildings to achieve higher energy efficiency ratings

The East Hampton Town Board took an important step toward reducing greenhouse gas emissions from buildings by adopting the 2020 N.Y. Stretch Energy Code at its November 18th meeting,

The new, more stringent energy efficiency building standards effective as of December 31, 2021, for both residential and commercial buildings are expected to result in an overall increase in energy efficiency of 11 percent.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation reports that buildings account for 30 percent of the greenhouse gas emissions in the state. Building more energy efficient buildings and reducing fossil fuel use in heating systems are key elements to reducing the emissions that drive global warming and climate change.

The Town Board heard presentations on the N.Y. Stretch Code at multiple work sessions and held two public hearings prior to adopting the “stretch” code, which is a voluntary extension of the state energy code, developed by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA).

Local adoption of a stretch energy code shows leadership by protecting the environment while creating healthier, more comfortable buildings with lower operating costs, and will play a role in helping NY State to achieve the renewable energy and emissions targets set forth in the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA).

East Hampton began improving its energy efficient building codes in 2017 with the adoption of more stringent Home Energy Rating System (HERS) Index scores than was required by state energy codes at the time for new building and substantial reconstruction.

The new code just adopted by the town will require all newly built and substantially reconstructed one-or-two family dwellings up to 4,500 square feet to achieve a HERS score of 50, and those over 4,500 square feet to achieve a HERS score of 31. The code also includes provisions for solar and electric vehicle charging readiness.

A copy of the N.Y. Stretch Code as adopted by East Hampton is available at the Town Clerk's office and on the Town's website.