

# Manitoba Building Code and Energy Code Updates

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Energy Efficiency



# Background

- Effective **January 1, 2024**, Manitoba will be adopting the 2020 editions of the National Building Code of Canada (NBC) and the National Energy Code for Buildings (NECB) published by the National Research Council (NRC).
- In coordination with Manitoba's Canadian Free Trade Agreement (CFTA) partners, the national model codes are now freely available online through the NRC's website:  
<https://nrc.canada.ca/en/certifications-evaluations-standards/codes-canada/codes-canada-publications>.

# Background (continued)

- The 2020 NBC is adopted with amendments under the Manitoba Building Code (MBC) regulation which is available on the Manitoba Laws website:

<https://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/regs/annual/2023/078.php?lang=en>

- The 2020 NECB is adopted with amendments under the Manitoba Energy Code for Buildings (MECB) regulation which is available on the Manitoba Laws website:

<https://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/regs/annual/2023/079.php?lang=en>

# Energy Efficiency in Buildings

- The 2020 editions of the codes allow provincial and territorial regulators to select energy efficiency tiers for housing and small buildings under the NBC, with five tiers to choose from, and large or complex buildings under the NECB, with four tiers to choose from.
- The highest tiers for either code means a building realizes at least a 60 per cent reduction in energy consumption over the baseline Tier 1.
- Adopting the highest tiers is a step towards Canada developing net-zero emissions codes by 2050, where new buildings will be powered entirely from non-emitting sources.

# Energy Efficiency in Buildings

- Effective January 1, 2024, Manitoba will be adopting the NBC and NECB codes starting at the default of Tier 1 for energy efficiency for both codes.
- Tier 1 implements approximately a 20 per cent energy efficiency improvement over the previous Manitoba requirements for large and complex buildings.
- Tier 1 for residential and small buildings implements an incremental improvement for energy efficiency but Manitoba will continue to have additional requirements for heat-recovery ventilation in residential application on top of the national requirements, while working towards adopting higher tiers.

# Energy Efficiency in Buildings

- Tier 1 is only a minimum requirement and builders who are building to higher efficiency standards can continue to do so.
- The updated MBC and MECB will provide designers with multiple paths of compliance to build to higher tiers which may appeal to customers that want higher energy efficiency for their buildings.

# Future Tier Adoption

- Manitoba is working with the federal government to access funding to do a proper assessment of a reasonable roadmap to advance through the energy efficiency tiers through the Codes Acceleration Fund.
- The Codes Acceleration Fund provides monetary incentives for jurisdictions to advance through the tiers in an accelerated manner and will fund initiatives in jurisdictions that will help to achieve that end, including education and training and any feasibility studies necessary for adopting higher tiers.
- Adoption of Tier 2 or higher under either of the codes is considered accelerated adoption under the Codes Acceleration Fund.

# Code Development

Under CFTA commitments Manitoba adopts the national model construction codes and is limited in its ability to make amendments.

Anyone interested in contributing to the national code development process can visit:

<https://ccbfc-cccbpi.ca/en/get-involved/>

The NRC also offers an e-mail newsletter and alert subscription service for those who want to stay notified about changes at the national level:

<https://nrc.canada.ca/en/subscribe/>