




**PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT MEMORANDUM**  
**#24-2023**

**DATE:** April 10, 2023

**TO:** Honorable Mayor Meredith Leighty and City Council Members

**THROUGH:** Heather Geyer, City Manager   
Jason Loveland, Interim Deputy City Manager 

**FROM:** Brook Svoboda, Director of Planning & Development   
Becky Smith, Planning Manager

**SUBJECT:** CR-64 – Commitment to Net Zero Building Codes in Northglenn

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**PURPOSE**

To consider CR-64, a resolution committing Northglenn to reaching 100% Net Zero greenhouse gas emission in residential and commercial construction through building energy and carbon codes adopted by or before 2030.

**BACKGROUND**

At the Feb. 13, 2023 Council meeting, staff presented the 2021 International Building Codes (IBCs). The presentation provided a comprehensive overview of proposed amendments to the 2021 IBCs. The majority of the amendments were developed through a Code Cohort process to incorporate additional green building provisions, also known as stretch code amendments. Part of the Code Cohort process is an underlying commitment that participating municipalities will strive for Net Zero standards for new construction by 2030. At this time, it is unclear whether the IBCs will reach this goal with the next three editions or whether additional amendments will be required.

The expressed intention of this resolution is that the City will attempt to accomplish Net Zero IBCs by 2030. There was Council consensus to bring the resolution forward with the adoption of the 2021 IBCs.

**BUDGET/TIME IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial or time implications.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends approval of CR-64.

**STAFF REFERENCE**

If Council Members have any questions, please contact Brook Svoboda, Director of Planning & Development, at [bsvoboda@northglenn.org](mailto:bsvoboda@northglenn.org) or 303.450.8937.

CR-64 – Commitment to Net Zero Building Codes in Northglenn

SPONSORED BY: MAYOR LEIGHTY

COUNCIL MEMBER'S RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION NO.

No. CR-64  
Series of 2023

\_\_\_\_\_  
Series of 2023

A RESOLUTION COMMITTING TO NET ZERO ENERGY BUILDING CODES IN THE CITY OF NORTHGLENN, COLORADO

WHEREAS, Colorado is already experiencing impacts of the climate crisis, including extreme heat, dangerous air quality, reduced snowpack, drought, wildfires, extreme weather events, and floods;

WHEREAS, the most recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Sixth Assessment report, as well as the Fourth National Climate Assessment, are clear that these impacts will increase and worsen and that we must immediately reduce emissions in order to maintain a livable climate;

WHEREAS, much of the burden and cost of these impacts falls on local governments and our residents;

WHEREAS, Northglenn has adopted the goal of 90% emissions reduction by 2050;

WHEREAS, Northglenn has adopted the Northglenn Sustainability Plan, Energy Action Plan and the Electric Vehicle Action Plan;

WHEREAS, building codes are one of the principal tools local governments have for reducing emissions, improving resilience, and lowering energy cost burden;

WHEREAS, utility bills and energy cost burden are important components of the total cost of home ownership and rentals, and reducing energy use lowers utility bills and energy cost burden for the lifespan of the home or building;

WHEREAS, homes and buildings built under this decade's building codes will determine the carbon emissions profile and energy performance of the building sector for many decades to come;

WHEREAS, the use of fossil fuels in homes and buildings releases both carbon dioxide and methane into the atmosphere, making energy efficiency and building electrification important strategies for reducing building greenhouse gas emissions and protecting indoor air quality as Xcel Energy, our electric utility, approaches its renewable energy goals;

WHEREAS, building codes that ensure new homes and buildings emit net zero greenhouse gases are technically and financially feasible with current technology and increasingly so with technology standardization and an increasingly renewable electric grid;

WHEREAS, Northglenn has laid a foundation for net zero new construction by undertaking to adopt, by the end of 2023, the latest edition of the 2021 International Energy Conservation Code, as published by the International Code Council, along with strengthening amendments that will prepare new homes and buildings for the accommodation of electric vehicles, rooftop solar, and zero-emission heating and water heating;

WHEREAS, Northglenn has joined with neighboring communities in a codes adoption cohort to achieve these goals with maximum consistency in order to streamline the construction process for builders and developers who work across our communities, reduce the costs of adoption and enforcement, and address shared priorities around affordability, equity, resilience and indoor/outdoor air quality; and

WHEREAS, Northglenn will continue to monitor technical and economic developments to minimize the total cost of net zero energy homes and buildings and maintain affordability while maximizing the benefits to homeowners, building owners, and tenants.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTHGLENN, COLORADO, THAT:

Section 1. Northglenn commits to reaching 100 percent net zero greenhouse gas emissions in new residential and commercial construction through building energy and carbon codes adopted by or before 2030.

Section 2. In service of this commitment, Northglenn will develop, in conjunction with neighboring communities, a roadmap of ranked achievable, affordable, and equitable building code strategies that prioritize energy efficiency and electrification as the most cost-effective paths to net zero operational greenhouse gas emissions.

Section 3. Northglenn will apply this roadmap to adopt, by or before 2030, new residential and commercial building codes that achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions and maximize consistency across neighboring jurisdictions.

DATED at Northglenn, Colorado, this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.

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MEREDITH LEIGHTY  
Mayor

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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JOHANNA SMALL, CMC  
City Clerk

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COREY Y. HOFFMANN  
City Attorney