

Resolution No. 2

Date: 6/17/2017

City: Washington, DC

NAHB Resolution

Title: Energy Efficiency as a Component of Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction
Sponsor: Construction, Codes & Standards Committee
Submitted by: Jim Zengel

WHEREAS, local, state and federal governments continue to advance proposals and strategies to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases as a means of addressing their concerns about global warming and climate change;

WHEREAS, use of fossil fuels, within homes and to generate electricity, contribute to greenhouse gas emissions in the United States;

WHEREAS, increased energy efficiency in new and existing housing results in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions;

WHEREAS, if Congress seeks to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through legislation, the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) must be an advocate for a balanced plan that fairly apportions the economic impact to all producer/user sources, including existing buildings;

WHEREAS, NAHB recognizes that energy efficiency is in the best interests of the nation's population, economy, environment, security and energy independence in the long term;

WHEREAS, in the model building codes and standards arena, NAHB has long been an advocate for energy efficiency provisions that are cost-effective and affordable for home buyers throughout the nation;

WHEREAS, NAHB is committed to research, development and the use of cost-effective products and building techniques, as well as financing practices, that promote energy efficiency in new and existing buildings;

WHEREAS, greater energy efficiency is a key component of the National Green Building Program and the ANSI-approved standard that NAHB developed for home builders who voluntarily choose to engage in "green" development, design and construction;

WHEREAS, NAHB consumer surveys have repeatedly shown that a typical homebuyer expects payback on energy efficiency measures within 10 years, NAHB has policy that limits increases in energy efficiency requirements to those that provide a simple payback to the home buyer within 10 years;

WHEREAS, many energy efficiency advocates and environmental groups are pushing in Congress and the codes and standards arena for increases of 50 percent or more in the energy efficiency of all new residential construction, with the ultimate goal of net zero-energy housing; and

WHEREAS, NAHB must be proactive in this national debate and must be an advocate for energy efficiency increases that are technologically achievable and economically justified,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that NAHB seek to limit increases in energy efficiency requirements for residential building codes to changes that are technologically achievable and economically justified;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if Congress considers legislation to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, NAHB encourage it to implement a balanced and comprehensive plan that fairly apportions the economic impact to all producer/user sources, including existing buildings;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NAHB support efforts to achieve enhanced energy efficiency in residential buildings not limited to the building envelope, and that increases resulting from the use of more energy-efficient mechanical equipment and lighting be included in measuring the increase in overall building efficiency;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NAHB urge the consideration of cost effectiveness and impact on residential construction practices and housing affordability in the development of any code intended or otherwise mandates compliance in order to achieve increased energy efficiency in residential buildings, and performance paths shall continue to be permitted; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NAHB urge Congress to not permit the Department of Energy to develop a federal energy efficiency code for energy efficiency in residential construction or unduly influence the code process.

If approved, this resolution will update and replace policy 2009.5 No. 1 Energy Efficiency Targets for Reductions in Greenhouse Gas Emissions that is due to expire.

Board of Directors Action:	APPROVED
Executive Board Action:	Recommends Approval
Resolutions Committee Action:	Recommends Approval
Construction, Codes & Standards Committee Action:	Recommends Approval
NAHB Remodelers Board of Trustees Action:	Recommends Approval
Single Family Builders Committee Action:	Recommends Approval
Federal Government Affairs Committee Action:	Recommends Approval
Environmental Issues Committee Action:	Recommends Approval
Multifamily Council Board of Trustees Action:	Recommends Approval
Sustainability & Green Building Subcommittee of the Environmental Issues Committee Action:	Recommends Approval
Energy & Green Construction Codes & Standards Subcommittee Of the Construction, Codes & Standards Committee Action:	Recommends Approval