

Sustainability codes and standards in process

There was a time when building codes' primary focus was ensuring life safety. In the 1970s, with the rise in energy prices, the International Energy Conservation Code was born. Now, with the increasing focus on designing more sustainably, several more codes and standards have surfaced to assist with, and ensure, more-sustainable designs. Because there are several sustainability-related codes and standards and new versions are being developed all the time, the listing provided here is not exhaustive. However, PCI has retained Martha VanGeem of CTL Group as a sustainability-code consultant to assist in the precast concrete industry's representation in these organizations.

ANSI/ASHRAE/USGBC/IES Standard 189.1-2009, *Standard for the Design of High-Performance Green Buildings*

This green-building standard was released in January 2010 and is written in code-mandatory language. According to PCI's sustainability-code consultant, it is being used as the basis for the draft of the California green building code. Although ASHRAE 189 is the first green-building standard to be released, several more are in development.

GBI-proposed American National Standard 01-200XP, *Green Building Assessment Protocol for Commercial Buildings*

This standard is currently in a public review and resolution stage, which is anticipated to take several more months. After the public-review process is complete, the document will be sent to ANSI for approval and will likely be released in the summer of 2010.

ASTM International Committee E60, *Sustainability*

Several new standards are being developed by ASTM E60 through the consensus process, including *New Standard Specification of Minimum Environmental, Social, and Economic Requirements for a Building Promoting Sustainability and Standard Classification for Environmentally Preferable Products for Buildings and Construction*. It is the hope of ASTM International that these standards will be adopted by organizations to promote sustainability.

IgCC

The IgCC is currently out for public review, and public review will close on May 15, 2010. Like other ICC codes, a hearing will be held August 14–22, 2010, in Rosemont, Ill.

PCI is working to keep up with all of the sustainability-related codes. If you'd like to be more involved with the PCI Sustainability Council or any of these other organizations, please contact me at elorenz@pci.org. ■

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