

# CODE COMPLIANCE IN CITIES: ASSESSING PROGRESS AND IDENTIFYING IMPROVEMENTS

## WHY CODE COMPLIANCE MATTERS

A strong building energy code is one of the most affordable and effective mechanisms for advancing energy efficiency in buildings. The national model building energy codes have increased energy saving potential by nearly 30 percent from 2006 to 2012. Ensuring compliance with building energy codes is a simple, ready-made way for cities to realize energy and carbon savings without the passage of any new policies. In fact, every dollar spent on energy code enforcement yields \$6 in energy savings: A 600 percent return on investment.

The City Energy Project has created a peer-reviewed, plug-and-play [Assessment Methodology for Code Compliance in Medium and Large Cities](#) for cities to assess code compliance. It provides both qualitative and quantitative feedback, including a compliance score, which can be used to track improvements and compare to other cities.



## BENEFITS OF ASSESSING CODE COMPLIANCE

- Evaluate Building Department processes to inform more consistent and higher-quality code compliance reviews and inspections.
- Reduce review times by focusing on high impact and commonly missed items.
- Understand opportunities for outreach and training
- Support and provide guidance for setting Climate Action Plans including energy consumption and greenhouse gas reduction goals.
- Evaluate future adoption of updated energy codes.
- Foster utility attribution evaluation for code support.
- Provide information to local stakeholders in building construction about energy code.



**CONTACT US**

**CITY ENERGY PROJECT  
CODES TEAM**

Email us at [CODES@IMT.ORG](mailto:CODES@IMT.ORG) for more information on getting started on a city-wide codes assessment.

## EASE THE STAFF PROCESS TO ASSESS AND EVALUATE CODE COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

Using the City Energy Project Resource Library Assessment Methodology for Code Compliance in Medium to Large Cities, a city can acquire the information needed to drive improvements in its code compliance and enforcement efforts. Staff benefits of conducting an assessment include:

- Directly participate and learn from the process of evaluation.
- Identify current issues with energy code compliance practices.
- Determine a compliance score that provides the city with a benchmark that can be used to measure progress.
- Create a plan with solutions to improve compliance and realize energy savings.
- Estimate how non-compliance effects energy consumption in a jurisdiction.

## GETTING STARTED

### REVIEW ALL PHASES OF PROJECT DEVELOPMENT



### FOLLOW THE ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY'S FOUR-PHASE PROTOCOL

