

**From:** Thad Curtz <curtzt@nuprometheus.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 25, 2019 10:07 AM  
**To:** DES SBCC <sbcc@des.wa.gov>  
**Subject:** Comments on the 2018 Residential Code

Doug Orth, Chair  
State Building Code Council  
1500 Jefferson St SE  
Olympia, WA 98501

Dear Chair Orth and other members of the Building Code Council:

I'm writing as a homeowner and consumer to urge you to adopt all the measures under consideration for increasing the energy efficiency requirements of the residential code.

People like my wife and I, who are not professionally involved with energy efficiency, find it quite complicated and difficult to make their houses more energy efficient once they've been built, and to make decisions about upgrading equipment. We both have professional degrees; we have two young grandchildren and we've been quite concerned for some time about global warming and what the world might be like when they're our age; for years, we've been thinking about a number of things we might do to our house and the equipment in it that would save energy and would probably save us money. But even we still haven't got around to getting most of them done... I think this is pretty typical; it's certainly true of our friends.

That's partly because it's more complicated and more expensive to fix things about the house or to replace equipment now than it would have been to build or buy it better in the first place, but that's not the main issue. It's difficult, even for us, to sort out exactly what it would be best to buy in the way of replacements and what really ought to be done about construction. Finding and hiring a contractor involves a lot of uncertainty, and seems risky. We're never sure whether what a contractor or a salesperson says we should do is well informed advice and in our best interest, or in theirs... And of course, there are lots of other demands on our time and attention. Somehow, lots of the things we keep thinking about doing never get done.

For all these reasons, it would be far better for us and other ordinary people to have professionals put what will be cost effective into the code, so things are just built and manufactured in better and more efficient ways from the beginning, and people don't have to try to figure it all out on their own, and then go through the ongoing hassle of replacing and upgrading things that have already been built or bought, or just keep putting things off and slowly wasting energy and losing money.

Best wishes,

Thad Curtz, Ph.D