



September 14, 2020

Dear Members of Newark City Council:

Green Building United supports the passage of Bill 20-24 – An Ordinance Amending Chapter 7, Building, and Chapter 32, Zoning, Code of the City of Newark, Delaware, By Updating Green Building Code Requirements.

Green Building United (GBU), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council, is committed to the promotion of sustainable building in Greater Philadelphia, the Lehigh Valley and Delaware. Through education and advocacy, GBU aims to create a sustainable, healthy and resilient built environment for all. Our community is made up of architects, engineers, policy makers and advocates, landscape architects, marketing and communications professionals, developers, contractors, building managers, building operators, government workers, and more. This issue is of particular interest to GBU, as our community is instrumental in how buildings and communities are designed, built, and operated in our region.

The State of Delaware is a leader in the region with its recent adoption of the 2018 International Energy Conservation Code. GBU is excited to support the City of Newark to build on this leadership by proposing a stretch code to enhance these improved minimum building requirements.

We applaud the work of the Green Building Working Code Group in proposing a green building stretch code that, using the 2018 International Codes as its basis, encourages projects to further improve upon energy conservation, resource conservation, and indoor environmental quality. What's more, projects alternatively have the ability to follow and certify to above code building standards to demonstrate compliance with the green building code.

The benefits of the green building code are numerous:

- In the life cycle of a building, the most cost-effective time to ensure efficient energy usage and avoid unnecessary cost is in the initial design and construction phase. Utility cost savings from a more efficient building accrue over the building's lifespan.
- More energy efficient buildings save consumers money on utility bills and reduce the environmental impact from energy use in the built environment thanks to improved envelope and equipment performance.
- Buildings that are built using climate-appropriate building materials and construction practices are also more resilient to the impacts of climate change.
- Improved ventilation and the use of superior materials contributes to better indoor environmental quality. The importance of a safe and healthy indoor environments in our homes is even more pronounced in the midst of the COVID-19 global pandemic as we spend the vast majority of our time indoors.

- Guidance on exceeding minimum building standards helps chart Delaware’s path toward its zero net energy capable goal for all new residential construction by 2025 and all new commercial construction by 2030. It is also consistent with the goals and values of the City of Newark’s Sustainability Plan to promote sustainable design and energy conservation to help address the source and impacts of climate change.

GBU supports the passage of Bill 20-24 to continue Newark’s leadership in efficient, healthy, and climate resilient buildings. We would be happy to address any additional questions about our testimony.

Sincerely,

The Delaware Community of Green Building United

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