



# City of Galveston

## PRESS RELEASE

Media Contact: Marissa Barnett, Public Information Officer  
[mbarnett@galvestontx.gov](mailto:mbarnett@galvestontx.gov) | 409.797.3546 Office | 409.692.6514 Cell

### State energy code adoption means changes for isle residential permitting

*The state's move to a new energy code will usher in some changes for new homes being permitted on the island beginning Dec. 1.*

**GALVESTON, TX – Oct. 29, 2018** – The state's move to an updated energy code will usher in some changes beginning December 1 for new homes and low-rise (three floors or fewer) multifamily construction being permitted on the island.

Under the changes, new home construction will be required to follow an updated International Energy Conservation Code, meaning homes will be more energy efficient. The most notable change will mean permit seekers need to have a third-party inspector to complete the energy inspection.

Conservation standards help ensure every new home meets a minimum standard for efficiency. As a result, new homes are more energy efficient – reducing utility bills – and friendlier to the environment by reducing air pollutant emissions.

“Homes will be more energy efficient under these new requirements,” said Todd Sukup, Assistant Director for Development Services. “It will also ultimately be more efficient for the homebuilder and the City to have it done this way by streamlining the inspection process.”

The new standards will follow the 2015 International Energy Conservation Code, instead of the 2012 code, which is the current standard. The updated codes require some changes for builders, including additional methods for compliance. The move was initiated by the Texas Legislature.

The City of Galveston will continue to do energy-related inspections for residential construction projects permitted prior to December 1. The new inspections, however, will require a third-party specialist.

In order to better serve the residential development community, we will provide the state's Energy Systems Laboratory-recognized compliance path and certification forms for all single-family and low-rise multifamily construction projects. These forms are available at the planning counter on the fourth floor of City Hall, 823 Rosenberg, and guide permit seekers to make sure they are meeting the requirements.

For more information, please contact Public Information Officer Marissa Barnett.

