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CITY OF BOISE APPROVES VOLUNTARY GREEN BUILDING CODE TO GUIDE, HIGHLIGHT SUSTAINABLE CONSTRUCTION

A new commercial and residential city building code framework provides large-scale developers the opportunity to show environmental leadership by increasing the efficiency of buildings beyond mandatory standards.

The new standards were approved by the Boise City Council last week as part of the City of Boise's continuing effort to enable, prioritize and spotlight sustainable practices across the city. This new Green Construction Code will become the standard for all city-owned construction projects moving forward, but will be voluntary for other developers. The first city-built projects to utilize this code in Boise will be the new [Library! at Bown Crossing](#) and [two new fire stations](#) overwhelmingly approved by voters in a November bond issue vote.

"Buildings are responsible for more than 40 percent of global energy use and one third of global greenhouse gas emissions," said Boise Mayor David Bieter, who was the first Idaho mayor to sign the [U.S. Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement](#) in 2006. "As a city government, we want to lead by example and we hope this new voluntary code will foster more sustainable development practices, without putting onerous requirements on new growth."

The new, voluntary Green Construction Code includes chapters focusing on site development and land use, water conservation, energy conservation, and indoor environmental quality, among others.

Developers who use the new code will receive special recognition and assistance from the City of Boise, which will declare projects that meet the standards as "Green Pillar" projects. Green Pillar projects will receive expedited permit processing and developers will have the option of participating in the City's project management program, which provides a single point of contact and assistance through the development and permitting processes.

Upon completion, a monument plaque commemorating the building's designation as a Green Pillar project will be installed on its exterior. A neutral building commissioning agent must also verify that the building functions in the way it was designed prior to the project receiving final city approval as a Green Pillar project.

The City of Boise will also pay for the analysis of the first two projects submitted as potential "Green Pillar" applicants. In the future, the City may also provide monetary incentives to encourage projects to use the new code.

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