

LPDD Top Tens: New Buildings

Updated January 2021

LPDD.org is an extraordinarily vast database, spanning more than 2,000 model laws, best practices, and policy documents touching on 34 different pathways to reducing emissions in the United States, at every level of government (and some in the private sector). To help the busy changemaker approach our database in a brief time, we've drafted *Top 10* lists for a subset of these pathways, highlighting some of the most interesting model laws or other resources that state or local governments can utilize.

Top 10 State Resources on New Buildings

1. **[Local]** [LPDD Model EV-Ready Building Codes](#). Our team has drafted model building codes for the [residential](#) and [commercial](#) sector mandating that new construction be equipped with the installation of Level 2 electric vehicle supply equipment.
2. **[State and Local]** [Zero Code Project](#). The Zero Code Project supports the adoption of net zero energy building standards, where all energy consumed is offset by on-site renewables. They have published a model building energy standard and policy guides.
3. **[Local]** [The Legal Dynamics of Local Limits on Natural Gas Use in Buildings](#). LPDD catalogues more than a dozen local governments that have instituted natural gas bans in new buildings. This 2020 report surveys this burgeoning area of local law, and legal challenges to this approach. The report also explores the less legally complex option of electrifying publicly-owned buildings.
4. **[Local]** [City Policy Framework for Dramatically Reducing Embodied Carbon](#). This report contains 52 policies cities can adopt to reduce embodied carbon, defined as carbon emissions from manufacture, transport, use and end of life of construction materials. It includes model code language on several topics, including low-carbon cement.
5. **[Local]** [Marin County's Low Carbon Concrete Code](#). This first-in-the-nation code addresses the negative environmental externalities of concrete by imposing a mandatory low-carbon concrete requirement in the building code.
6. **[Local]** [Model Stretch Codes](#). The New Building Institute Model Stretch codes present jurisdictions with a set of energy-saving building strategies that cover building components such as envelope, mechanical, water heating, lighting and plug loads.
7. **[Local]** [Model Language for Outcome-Based Energy Codes](#). The New Building Institute provides draft regulatory language for jurisdictions to incorporate outcome-based compliance metrics into current energy codes.
8. **[Local]** [Building Electrification](#). This 2020 report from the Southwest Energy Efficiency Project analyzes 12 municipal case studies and surveys the different policy options available to local communities. It offers adoptable model code language on building electrification.
9. **[Local]** [San Francisco's Better Roofs Ordinance](#). This ordinance requires new buildings to have 15% of the roof space as solar panels or 30% of the roof space as a Living (green) Roof. For more context on green roofs and other legislative options in this vein, see the report [Green Roof and Wall Policy in North America](#).
10. **[Local]** [Model Code for Accessory Dwelling Units](#). Zoning codes can encourage greater residential density by allowing denser residential areas, effectively reducing transportation emissions. This model code for accessory dwellings ensures they small and discreet, while also providing enough latitude in their creation that they actually get built.