



Significant Changes
Tentative Adoption: March 15, 2024

WSEC/R Changes



WSEC/C



IRC Changes



WSEC/R



2021 Building Code

WASHINGTON STATE ENERGY CODE Progress Toward 2030

Figure 1

Incremental Improvement Compared to Targets



- The state added Ch. 45 – Existing buildings and structures. The scoping provisions state that repairs, alterations, additions, and relocation of existing buildings and structures must comply with the requirements of new construction except as modified in this chapter. Users are directed to the IEBC only when there is a change in occupancy or change of height or egress that pushes the scope out of the IRC. WS IRC R102.7.1 and WS IRC Chapter 45.
- A new section added regarding electric vehicle charging to require a dedicated 40-ampere circuit terminating at a junction box, receptacle outlet or charging equipment. WS IRC R309.6.
- A new location requirement for smoke alarms was added to address high ceilings adjacent to hallways serving bedrooms and the state clarified that a smoke alarm is required within the room to which a loft is open. IRC R314.3 & WS IRC R314.3.
- 6 mil waterproofing no longer allowed at concrete foundations. IRC R406.2.
- A minimum 10 mil vapor retarder conforming to ASTM E1745 Class A requirements is now required below slabs-on-grade. IRC R506.2.3.
- Continuous sheathing requirements for foundation cripple walls limited to exterior cripple walls only allowing for simplified crawl space ventilation. IRC R602.9.
- The location of braced wall lines and permitted offsets are more limited. IRC R602.10.1.2.
- Some previous state amendments for exterior coverings regarding water-resistive barriers and flashing have been removed to rely on the model code language. IRC R703.
- Revised wood roof framing language to clarify where a ridge beam is required when ceiling joists or rafter ties do not provide continuous ties across the structure. IRC R802.3.
- Additional specifications are provided to clarify and limit where ridge boards can be used. IRC R802.6.