2022 Denver Green Code
Explanatory Video Series

What’s New in 2022?

Community Planning & Development
Office of Climate Action, Sustainability and Resiliency
Advancing the Denver Green Code

• Three-year update cycle keeps provisions current and focused on addressing Denver’s specific priorities and goals
  – 2022 Denver Green Code update aligns with adoption of the 2022 Denver Building and Denver Fire Codes

• Advancement and use of the DGC continues to respond to Denver voters’ prioritization of immediate climate actions

• Improvements to the 2022 Denver Green Code focus on further aligning development with the community’s vision for Denver’s future captured in Comprehensive Plan 2040
What’s new in the DGC?

- Shift from voluntary code to limited, mandatory use for new commercial projects and major renovations

- Key new amendments:
  - Ecological Impact Statement (EIS)
  - Diverse, native and adapted, low water, ecologically beneficial landscapes
  - Small site rainwater management
  - Embodied carbon limitations (concrete and steel)
  - Increased energy efficiency and storage, grid stability strategies, renewable energy generation, and electrification
  - Deconstruction, reuse, recycling, composting, waste diversion
  - Outcome focused limits for resource use and indoor environmental quality thresholds
Updated Format

- Easier to Read and Use
- Visually divided into 116 provisions
- Chapters by Focus
- Requirements by Chapter

Screenshot from ICC Digital Codes, where the 2022 DGC can be viewed or purchased.
Limited Mandatory Use (LMU)

- **NEW**: Commercial development (including multifamily residential) must meet some provisions from this code
- Allows project teams flexibility to choose which specific provisions to implement
- **Limited Mandatory Use** requirements apply to all new commercial buildings, their systems and their sites, as well as major commercial renovations
  - *Major renovation, commercial*: Level 3 alteration per DEBC Section 604, or addition containing greater than 100,000 GSF or 50% of existing GFA, whichever is less
  - No part of provision of the 2022 DGC is mandatory for residential projects submitted under the Denver Residential Code
Limited Mandatory Use (LMU) Requirements

**Table 101.4.1 - Quantity of Provisions Required**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>New Construction&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>Major Renovations&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>Available Provisions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5. Site Sustainability</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Water Use Efficiency</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Commercial Energy</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Indoor Environmental Quality</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Materials &amp; Resources</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Construction &amp; Plans for Operation</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<sup>a</sup> An **EIS (Ch. 1)** may be submitted as a substitution for one required provision from any chapter.

<sup>b</sup> If less than 20% of the site is disturbed, Site Sustainability provisions are not required.
Ecological Impact Statement (EIS)

- May be submitted as a substitution to satisfy one required provision from any single qualifying chapter
- The site inventory and assessment of ecological attributes quantifies impacts – both positive and negative – that the project will have on the site
- Encourages a holistic design approach that considers the unique attributes of the site in the context of the Denver region
Ecological Impact Statement (EIS)
A Unique and Holistic Assessment

Considers multiple scales of influence

Evaluates the project on nine topics

• Topography
• Hydrology
• Climate
• Vegetation and animal habitat
• Significant wildlife habitat
• Soils
• Human use
• Human health effects
• Air quality or air pollution potential
Where can I learn more?

Visit Denvergov.org/GreenCode to:

- Link to the 2022 Denver Green Code
- Watch other videos in this series
- Register for DGC Virtual Office Hours
- Find additional resources for your project