



Stow

Town Meeting

Supporting Article 49

Acceptance of Stretch Code

Arnie Epstein – Stow Energy Working Group
Craig Martin – Building Commissioner

Date 5/4/15



Overview

- ◆ **Stretch Energy Code**
 - **Performance based building code for energy conservation**
- ◆ **No longer much of a stretch**
 - **Compared to new base code IECC2012**
- ◆ **Adopted by 147 communities in Mass**
- ◆ **Required for Green Community designation and state grants**



Green Communities

- ◆ A state program that provides funding to towns for energy conservation
- ◆ Stow proposes to apply for Green Community designation this fall.
- ◆ If successful, the town will receive an initial state grant of \$134,000 for energy conservation.
- ◆ It is projected the town will save over \$44,000 annually in energy costs once the conservation measures are implemented.
- ◆ Additional annual grants available from the state.
- ◆ One of the requirements for Green Community designation is the adoption of the Stretch Energy Code.



Green Community – Five Criteria

- ◆ Criteria 1 and 2 – Provide as-of-right siting for renewable energy generation and expedited permitting.
 - **Status – Current zoning bylaws meet the criteria.**
- ◆ Criteria 3 – Municipal energy use baseline and plan for reduction of 20% in 5 years.
 - **Status – Baseline complete. Energy reduction plan underway.**
- ◆ Criteria 4 – Purchase fuel efficient vehicles.
 - **Status – Vehicle inventory complete. Non-exempt vehicles identified.**
- ◆ Criteria 5 – Adopt the Stretch Energy Code
 - **Vote at Town Meeting.**



The Stretch Code is no longer much of a stretch

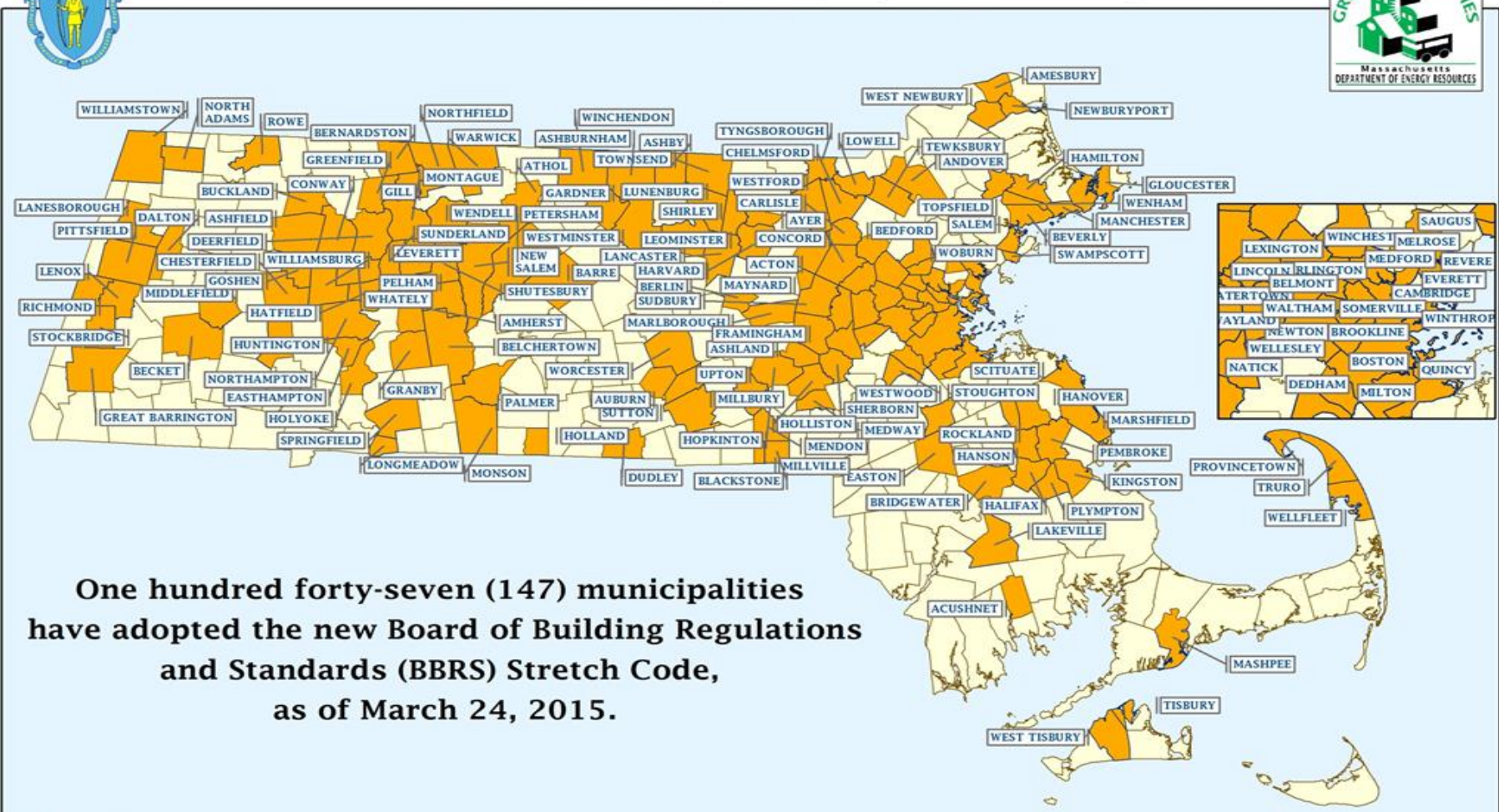
- ◆ As of July 1, 2014 a new base energy code took effect (IECC2012)
- ◆ Basic difference in cost is for HERS Energy Rater
 - Required by **Stretch Code** for new residential construction and major additions and renovations.
 - Between \$750 and \$1250 for typical single family home.
- ◆ Applied to
 - **Insulation, Doors & Windows, Mechanical Equipment, Lighting, Appliances, Building Tightness – Air Sealing, Duct Tightness**



Stretch Code Adoption in Mass

147 Communities have adopted the Stretch Code including Acton, Harvard, Lancaster, Maynard

Stretch Code Adoption, by Community



One hundred forty-seven (147) municipalities have adopted the new Board of Building Regulations and Standards (BBRS) Stretch Code, as of March 24, 2015.







Summary

- ◆ Stretch Energy Code is similar to current base code.
 - ◆ Limited financial impact only for new construction.
 - ◆ Already adopted in neighboring towns.
 - ◆ Contractors familiar with it.
- ◆ Required criteria for Green Community designation.