



North Central Texas
Council of Governments

Regional Codes Coordinating Committee

Opinion Statement

2021 International Energy Conservation Code Appendix RB and 2021 International Residential Code Appendix AT, Solar-Ready Provisions – Detached One- and Two-Family Dwellings and Townhouses

The Regional Codes Coordinating Committee (RCCC) of the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) recommends jurisdictions consider adopting the 2021 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) Appendix RB and 2021 International Residential Code (IRC) Appendix AT, Solar-Ready Provisions – Detached One- and Two-Family Dwellings and Townhouses, herein referred to as “Solar-Ready Provisions.”

A Solar-Ready Zone is a section or sections of the roof or building overhang designated and reserved for future installation of a solar photovoltaic or solar thermal system. The Solar-Ready Provisions *do not* require installation of a PV system at the time of construction. Adoption of the Solar-Ready Provisions can make future PV system installations more cost-effective by reducing the need for future infrastructure upgrades, ensuring technical feasibility, and planning for system optimization.

Cities may choose whether to adopt the Solar-Ready Provisions of the 2021 IECC and IRC and they are not required to adopt these appendices if they adopt the 2021 IECC or IRC. At the request of NCTCOG staff, the Energy and Green Advisory Board (EGAB) reviewed Appendix RB of the 2021 IECC and concurred with one amendment that would be relevant to both Appendices. The Fire Advisory Board and the Building and Residential Board both concurred with EGAB’s review and recommended amendment:

Recommended Amendment: Strike subsection “RB103.7 Roof Load Documentation: The structural design loads for roof dead load and roof live load shall be clearly indicated on the construction documents.”

Amendment Rationale: Roof load requirements of new construction are sufficient to accommodate the nominal additional weight of solar panels, so that structures built to new structural standards are inherently capable of supporting any additional load.

Jurisdictions interested in reducing the barriers to solar adoption can consider adoption of the Solar-Ready Provisions to streamline their jurisdictional processes and provide consistency amongst local governments in the region. Adoption of the Solar-Ready Provisions supports NCTCOG regional priorities associated with adoption of renewable energy systems, improve air quality, improve grid resiliency, reduce costs to go solar, and to support regional standardization.

Should you have questions regarding the contents of this Opinion Paper, please contact the NCTCOG Environment and Development Department at EandD@nctcog.org.