



**Southwest Energy Efficiency Project**

*Saving Money and Reducing Pollution through Energy Conservation*

**PRESS RELEASE**

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**SWEEP Publishes Guide on Programs for Increasing Energy and Resource Efficiency in New Homes and Commercial Buildings**

(Denver, CO) – While building energy codes set a floor on the energy efficiency of new buildings, it is possible to move well beyond minimum code requirements and reduce energy use in new buildings by 30% or more very cost effectively. SWEEP has developed the ***Going Beyond Code*** guide to help state and local governments design and implement successful efficiency programs for new commercial and residential buildings in the Southwest. The guide provides detailed descriptions and analysis of previously implemented programs, including lessons learned and best practices. The guide also provides recommendations for developing and implementing beyond code programs as well as model energy codes.

“Across the Southwest, leading states and local governments are demonstrating that new homes and commercial buildings can be much more energy and resource-efficient than typical new homes or commercial buildings. Increasing energy and resource efficiency in new buildings is fundamental for achieving energy, economic and environmental goals,” stated Steve Dunn, Senior Associate at Southwest Energy Efficiency Project (SWEEP). “If all states were to adopt minimum energy efficiency requirements that are 30% beyond today’s model energy codes, the region could save nearly 2,300 MW of electricity, and avoid building five medium-sized power plants by 2020.”

SWEEP developed the guide in response to the growing interest in fostering the construction of new buildings that go well beyond national model codes. “States and communities seeking to develop beyond code programs can gain valuable insights from their counterparts in the region,” stated Michelle Britt, Partner at the Britt / Makela Group, which conducted research and analysis on state and local beyond code programs, as well as national standards and guidelines. “States and localities can use the Guide to determine which approach will work best for their jurisdiction, and develop and implement an effective beyond code program.”

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*Going Beyond Code: A Guide to Creating Energy Efficient and Sustainable Buildings in the Southwest* is designed to help state and local governments design and implement successful “beyond code” programs for new commercial and residential buildings in the Southwest. The Guide addresses each of the primary areas that are typically addressed in beyond code or green building programs, including energy efficiency materials and resource conservation, water efficiency, indoor environmental quality, and site development and land use.

Copies of the complete study as well as the Executive Summary are available on the SWEEP Web site at: [www.swenergy.org/buildingefficiency/codes/beyondcode/](http://www.swenergy.org/buildingefficiency/codes/beyondcode/)

**About SWEEP:** The Southwest Energy Efficiency Project (SWEEP) is a public interest organization that promotes greater energy efficiency in the states of Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming. For more information, visit [www.swenergy.org](http://www.swenergy.org).