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MEMORANDUM

Date: 21 April 2008
To: Mayor Hutchinson and City Council members
From: Air Quality Advisory Board
Subject: Building Code revision

Members of the Air Quality Advisory Board have considered the proposed adoption of the International Building Code with local amendments, and we recommend unanimously that the City Council adopt the proposed ordinance on first reading.

The Board focused its review on two issues: energy conservation standards for commercial buildings, and radon requirements for multi-family buildings. Buildings placed into service today will last for many decades. Although the proposed energy conservation standards are a step in the right direction, Board members feel that more needs to be done to improve the energy performance of new buildings, considering the importance of building energy use in overall energy use and greenhouse gas emissions, as shown in the graph below. Therefore we urge the Council to consider, during the next code update following this one, the adoption of stronger energy standards such as those contained in the Leadership for Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) criteria.

The new radon requirements are a natural extension of the current requirements on single-family homes, which the Board has long supported. We feel it is appropriate and important that multi-family residents have the same health risk protections as single-family.

If you have any questions or comments about this Air Quality Advisory Board Recommendation, please contact me.

Eric Levine, Chair

