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Model Code for Green Construction Released for Public Comment

The country's first model green building code for new and existing commercial buildings was recently released and is available for public comment. The International Green Construction Code (IGCC) represents years of collaboration between the International Code Council (ICC), the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), the American Institute of Architects (AIA), the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE), ASTM International, and the Illuminating Engineering Society of North America (IES) in an effort to create industry standards for the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of sustainable, high-performance commercial buildings. The model code also includes an enforcement component that provides a process to verify the use of sustainable materials and/or sustainable building techniques to reduce energy consumption.

The launch of the model code marks an important phase in the green building movement and is a significant development for the construction industry. The International Green Construction Code provides a regulatory framework that can be adopted by municipalities around the world and is expected to advance the development of green building codes in local jurisdictions throughout the U.S. and internationally.

A copy of the IGCC is available online and the ICC is seeking public comment on the Code until May 14, 2010: <http://www.iccsafe.org/cs/IGCC/Pages/default.aspx>. Another round of revisions and public comments is anticipated with the final publication planned for 2012.

For more information, contact [Jennifer Grippa](#) or any member of [Miller & Martin's Sustainability Practice Group](#).

The opinions expressed in this bulletin are intended for general guidance only. They are not intended as recommendations for specific situations. As always, readers should consult a qualified attorney for specific legal guidance. Should you need assistance from a Miller & Martin attorney, please call 1-800-275-7303.

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