
Harmonizing “Above Code” Codes

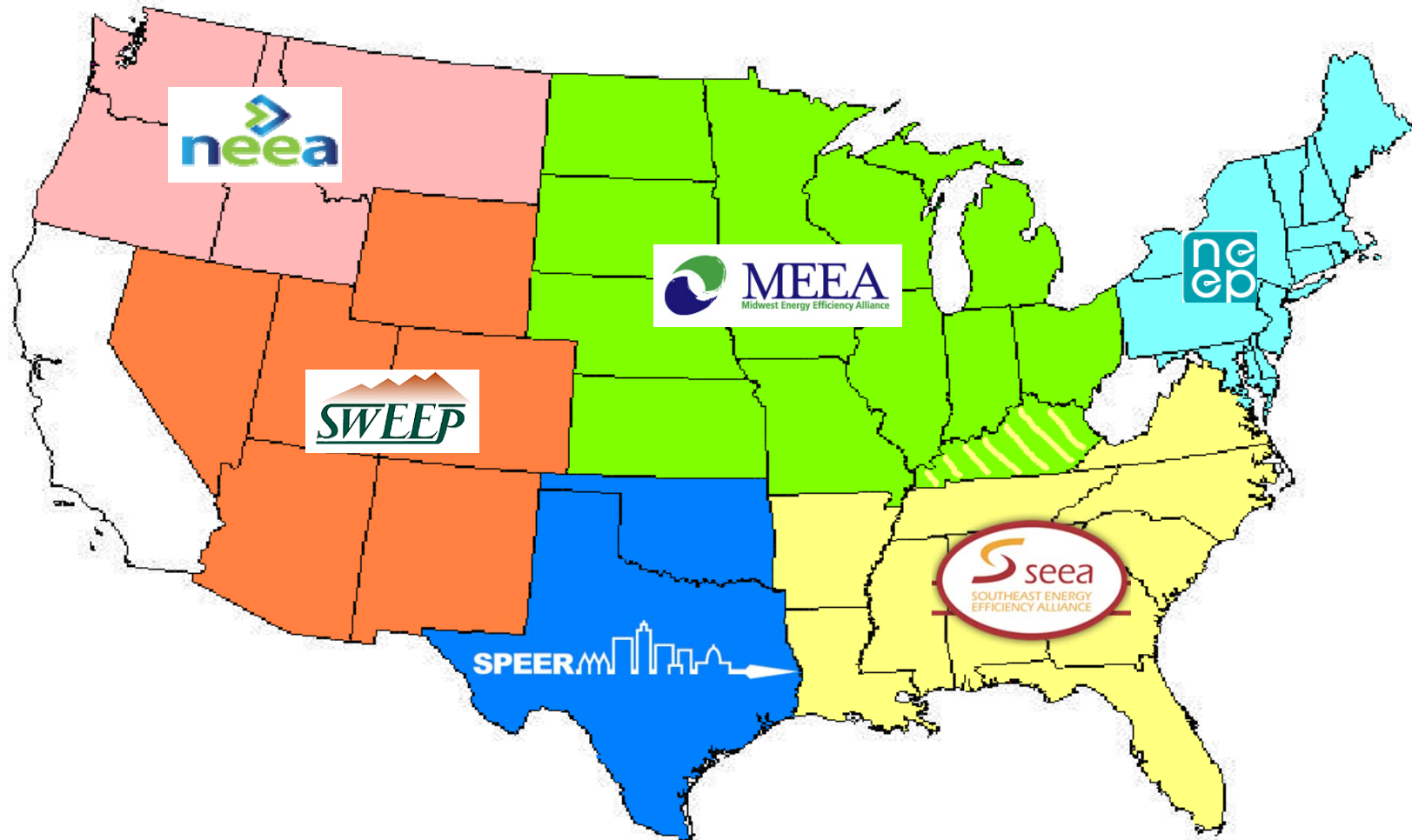
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6 Regional Energy Efficiency Organizations



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Texas grid facing an energy crisis

- No new generation coming online
- Old, inefficient coal-fired plants going offline
- ERCOT CEO Trip Doggett said “We are very concerned about the significant drop in the reserve margin...we will be very tight on capacity next summer and have a repeat of this year’s emergency procedures and conservation appeals.”

Higher codes needed to relieve pressure

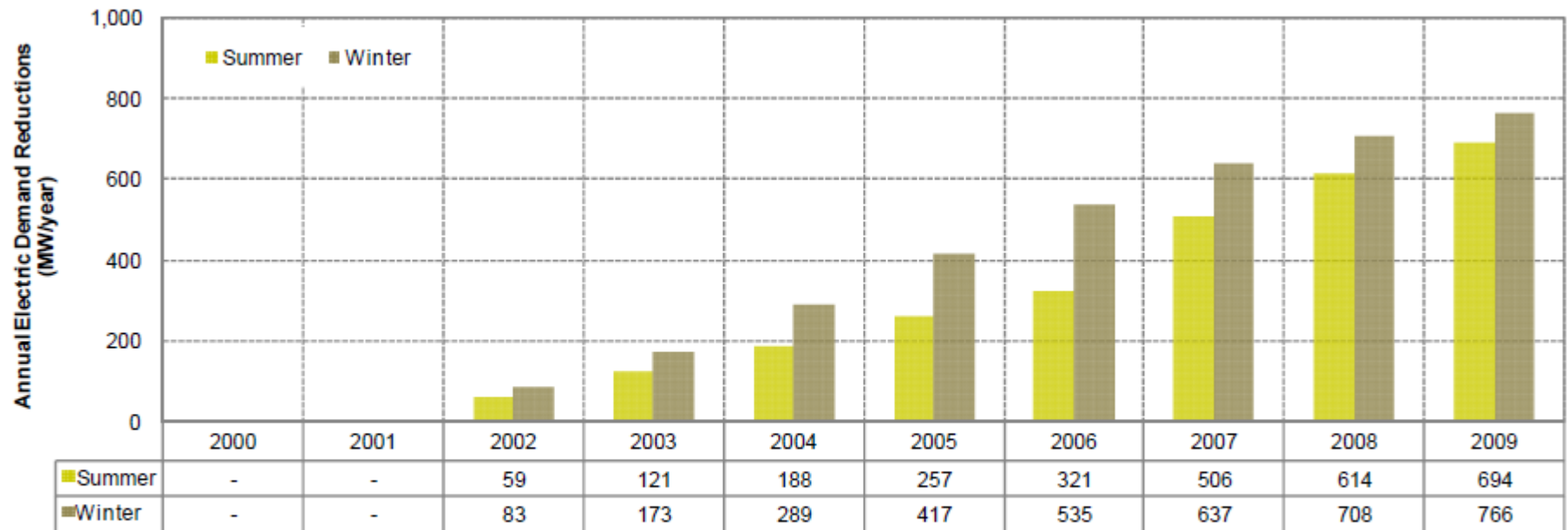


Figure 2. Annual Statewide Electric Demand Reductions from the IECC Code Adoption for New Single-Family Residences in Texas: 2002-2009.

Building Codes are forcing change

- 2012 IECC 30% higher than 2006 IECC
- IRC, the “weaker code,” will mirror IECC in 2012
- City governments advancing local codes with higher efficiency marks than statewide codes
 - Local codes need to be harmonized to avoid patchwork of vastly different codes

Cities moving forward alone

Statewide, Texas has adopted 2009 IECC but...

- Houston – adding 5% efficiency increase/year
- San Antonio – additional “Sustainable Building Code” in addition to 2009 IECC
- Austin – requiring net-zero capable by 2015
- Dallas-Fort Worth – ??
 - Council of Governments meeting to begin working together as DFW contains dozens of cities and therefore dozens of different codes

Catch-22

- The market is flushed with “Above Code” standards and programs, at state and local levels
- Great programs aimed at accelerating energy efficiency adoption end up hindering market penetration because they create confusion
- SPEER’s goal is to start the harmonization and lessen the confusion

Harmonizing “Above Code” Codes

- Helping cities and local governments who wish to adopt higher energy codes to do so in line with where ICC is taking codes in future iterations
- Helping cities and local governments in the same region work together to adopt similar codes to avoid confusion

Questions?

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