

NEWS RELEASE

January 11, 2011

MASON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

**411 NORTH 5TH ST
SHELTON, WA 98584**

TO: KMAS, KRXY, SHELTON-MASON COUNTY JOURNAL, THE OLYMPIAN, SHELTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, NORTH MASON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, CITY OF SHELTON, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, THE SUN

RE: State Energy and Building Code Updates Effective January 2011

Effective January 1, 2011 Washington State implemented the 2009 Washington State Energy Code (WSEC). Mason County, along with all other jurisdictions, will review and inspect to the 2009 WSEC standards. The revised code is designed to reduce energy consumption at the request of Governor Gregoire by keeping with the recommendations of the Washington State Climate Action Team. The 2009 code was modified to reduce green house gas emissions and lower the average annual cost of heating and cooling a newly constructed single-family residence.

An overview of the 2009 WSEC requires the ceiling insulation levels to be increased and window-glazing efficiency is more stringent. Air sealing measures are critical to energy consumption; the revised code has included requirements for furnace duct system and building envelopes to be tested for leakage. The test results will be posted within the structure for current and future owners.

In addition to WSEC implementations the International Building Code (IBC) requirements for carbon monoxide detectors also goes into effect. All newly constructed homes that receive an occupancy inspection after January 1, 2011 shall require carbon monoxide detectors to be installed within the dwelling unit and located in the immediate vicinity outside the sleeping area. All existing homes that have fuel-fired appliances or have attached garages shall be equipped with carbon monoxide detectors on or before January 1, 2013.

For additional information contact Mark Core at 360/427-9670, ext. 357.


Lynda Ring Erickson
Chair


Jerry K. Lingle
Commissioner


Tim Sheldon
Commissioner