

April 24, 2012

California Energy Commission
Attention: Docket No. 12-BSTD-1
Dockets Office
1516 Ninth Street, MS-4
Sacramento, CA 95814

DOCKET	
12-BSTD-1	
DATE	APR 24 2012
RECD.	APR 24 2012



RE: Comments of Global Green USA on California Energy Commission's 2013 Building Energy Efficiency Standards (Docket No. 12-BSTD-1)

To Whom It May Concern:

Global Green USA is writing in support of the California Energy Commission's 2013 Building Energy Efficiency Standards. Over the past decade, Global Green has established itself as a national leader in promoting green building practices in the affordable housing community. Global Green's work with affordable housing developers has resulted in thousands of energy efficient and healthy homes, including many certified to the highest levels of the Leadership in Energy Environmental Design Rating System.

Over the past 35 years, California's Model Energy Code has saved Californians more than \$61 billion in electricity and natural gas savings through energy efficient building standards. These same standards have helped protect the environment by reducing more than 250 million metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions, the equivalent of taking 37 million cars off the road. As a result of our standards, Californians pay 20 percent less on residential electricity bills than the average U.S. household.

We therefore support the Energy Commission's plan to adopt updated building energy efficiency standards that are projected to save homeowners and business owners an additional \$1.68 billion over 30 years. The standards will save consumers almost two-and-a-half times more than the upgrades will cost.

The benefits of these standards go beyond just economic savings. They will achieve a remarkable 30% energy saving over the current version of the code, thus avoiding the need to construct at least 8 new power plants; they will save 200 million gallons of water per year; and they will avoid the release of more than 163 thousand metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions per year.

We appreciate that these updated standards are driven by two of our state energy policies. First, California's loading order, which directs that growing demand must be met first with cost-effective energy efficiency measures; and second, California's Zero Net Energy (ZNE) goals, which will require new buildings to use a combination of improved efficiency and distributed renewables to meet 100% of their annual energy need by 2020. The 2013 standards update is the first version of the energy code that takes into account our statewide ZNE goals.

We strongly support the California Energy Commission's proposed update to Title 24, and look forward to working with the Commission. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mary Luevano
Policy and Legislative Affairs Director
Global Green USA

In Partnership with
Green Cross International
Mikhail S. Gorbachev
Founder

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