

Top Hat Consulting

<u>Team Member Name</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Major</u>
Audrey Berlie	2024	Environmental Studies & Finance
Sadie Jensen	2024	Environmental Science & Finance
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Advisor(s): Dr. John Tichenor & Dr. Jim Beasley

Topic: Building Codes and the Climate Crisis

Audience: The International Code Council (ICC) & Mr. Dominic Sims (CEO)

Sustainable Development Goal

SDG 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable.

SDG 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels.

Executive Summary

Building codes are central to sustainable development, but they are not created or enforced by the federal government. Instead, construction standards are generally adopted by local jurisdictions based off model building codes promulgated by the International Code Council (ICC). Although the ICC previously allowed stakeholders to vote on model building codes, this changed in 2011 when the ICC closed voting to hand-selected parties; many of which voiced opposition to climate-friendly advancements. While the ICC is dedicated to creating standards that facilitate the “construction of safe, sustainable, affordable and resilient structures”¹, these goals cannot be achieved by neglecting the voices of all stakeholders.

We, Top Hat Consulting, highly recommend that the ICC reverse its 2011 decision of giving partners who oppose climate friendly resolutions an unjust influence over building code regulations. Our proposition ensures that the ICC creates resolutions that reflect the evolving needs of our communities for responsible household living by providing stakeholders the opportunity to build a sustainable future. We ask the judges to assume the role of CEO Dominic Sims as we represent a consulting group advising the ICC. By including stakeholders in the building code approval process, we know the ICC can once again assume the responsibility of helping to create a more sustainable environment for communities today and tomorrow.

¹ <https://www.iccsafe.org/about/who-we-are/>

