



# CCREEE

CARIBBEAN CENTRE FOR RENEWABLE  
ENERGY & ENERGY EFFICIENCY

AN INSTITUTION OF



## 1. Does the CARICOM Regional Energy Efficiency Building Code cover all buildings?

No. It covers two classes of buildings – residential and commercial. By definition within the Code, residential buildings are detached one- and two-family dwellings and townhouses, which are permanent dwellings withing the R2, R3 and R4 groupings and three-stories or less in height.

Commercial buildings are defined as anything outside of residential parameters.

## 2. What happens if the property where I live also serves as my commercial space, i.e. my business?

Where a building includes both residential building and commercial building portions, each must be separately considered and meet the applicable provisions of the Code. That is, the commercial provisions must be met by the commercial property and the residential provision must be met by the home.

## 3. Can my building be above Code and if so, how?

Yes, your building can be above Code. The Code is the minimum provisions that residential and commercial buildings should adhere to, but it is possible to exceed those provisions. If you have overachieved the recommendations or requirements of the Code, then your property under consideration can be above Code.

## 4. So, the Code only concerns with the inside of the buildings and the energy used inside, right?

No. The scope of the code covers not only the energy consumed within the building itself, but looks at everything within the boundaries of the property that may use energy. That includes things such as landscape lighting, security lighting, lighting for signs and façade, equipment, pools, garages etc. – i.e. it applies to buildings, building sites and associated systems and equipment, as long as those systems and equipment utilize the centralized power source.

## 5. Given that ASHRAE has released a 2019 version of its 90.1 Standard and the CREEBC references the 2016 90.1 version, can the 2019 version be used as an upgrade in terms of compliance to what is in the regional code?

No. You have to reference the ASHRAE 90.1 2016 version for compliance because those are the parameters outlined in the CREEBC for compliance by commercial buildings.

## 6. What is the purpose of the CREEBC?

The Code has three main purposes:

To conserve energy over the useful life of each building;

To provide flexibility for innovation;

Not to abridge safety or health requirements from other laws and regulations; so, it does not supersede any health and safety laws that currently exist.

## 7. How will building to this Code help me save money?

In the initial stages, the outlying costs may be high when building to Code, but over time and with the implementation of various energy efficient measures within the home or commercial property, you will likely see a reduction in your energy costs compared to inefficient homes because of your earlier actions. Therefore, over the life of your property, it is possible to cover your initial outlays in a few years and enjoy savings over the remaining life-cycle of the property. An economic assessment before building or while implementing the measures will give an idea of what you can save over the life of your property. You will eventually have a building that is resilient, healthy, has low operating costs, and safer for the environment.