

ICC MEMBER OPINION SURVEY- GREEN BUILDING

The International Code Council (ICC) has surveyed its governmental members regarding green building. The response of the membership has helped shape ICC policy and provide future direction on matters regarding the relationship of “green building” to the codes and standards produced by the International Code Council. Expanding the boundaries of ICC beyond fire and life safety and reducing building life-cycle impacts on human health and the environment is a matter of importance to the ICC, as is evident in the ICC Green Building Policy Position Statement. (See <http://www.iccsafe.org/news/green/index.html> for statement details.)

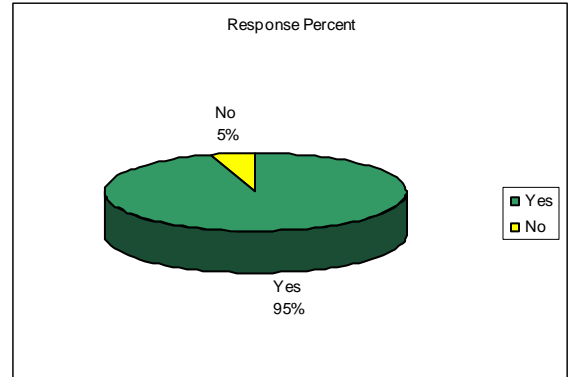
SURVEY PURPOSES:

- Obtain feedback on the current use of, and exposure to “green building” methods, systems and materials among governmental members.
- Obtain feedback among governmental members regarding their interest in a “green product” evaluation system.
- Determine whether governmental members believe that expanding the boundaries of public safety—reducing building impacts on human health and the environment— is a matter of importance and required for ICC to be competitive in the future.
- Obtain feedback on the comparative market awareness of the USGBC (United States Green Building Council) LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification program, the GBI (Green Building Initiative) Green Globes rating system and the ICC/NAHB/ANSI National Green Building Standard.
- Obtain general direction from governmental members suitable to steer the Council’s role in the development of the ICC/NAHB/ANSI National Green Building Standard.

Each of the original survey questions is restated herein, followed by a pie chart and staff analysis of the survey data for each respective question.

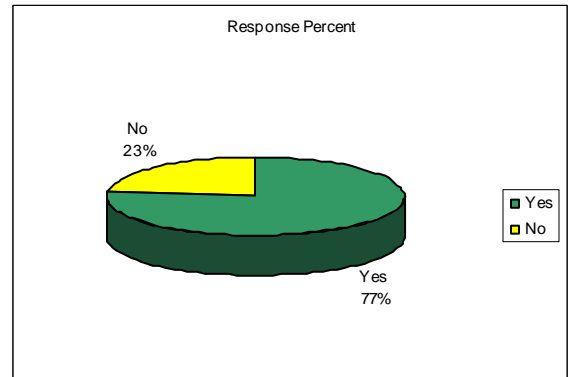
Part I – Green Building Awareness

1. Have you heard about “green buildings”?



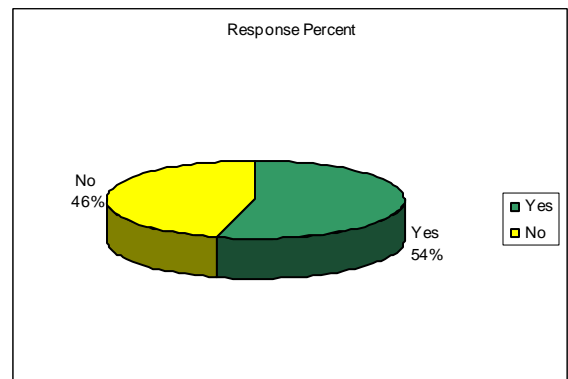
Survey Result for Question #1: Nearly all of the respondents were familiar with the term “green building.”

2. Before visiting the ICC site, were you aware of the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) or LEED certification?



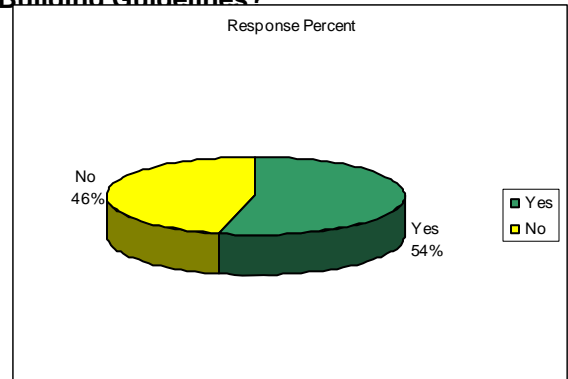
Survey Result for Question #2: Over three quarters of respondents were aware of the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) or LEED certification.

3. Are you aware of the Green Building Initiative (GBI) or Green Globes assessment program?



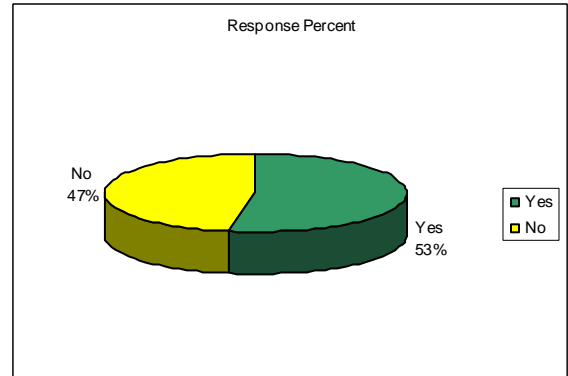
Survey Result for Question #3: Over half of the respondents were aware of the Green Building Initiative or Green Globes program.

4. Are you aware of the NAHB Model Green Building Guidelines?



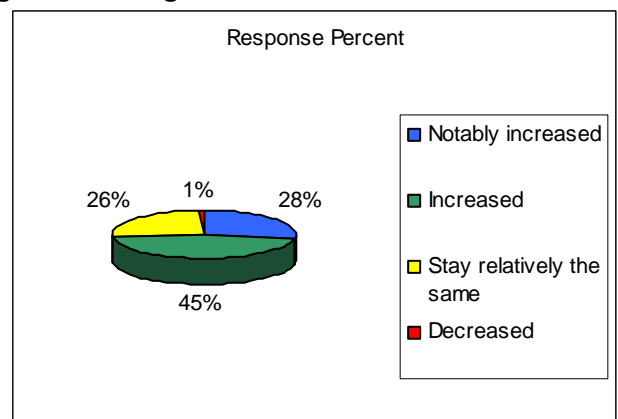
Survey Result for Question #4: Over half of the respondents were aware of the NAHB Model Green Building Guidelines. Note that ICC was a stakeholder in the creation of these guidelines, which served as the basis for the first draft of the ICC/NAHB/ANSI National Green Building Standard.

5. Are you aware that the ICC, NAHB and the NAHB Research Center have initiated a process to develop an ANSI standard for green building?



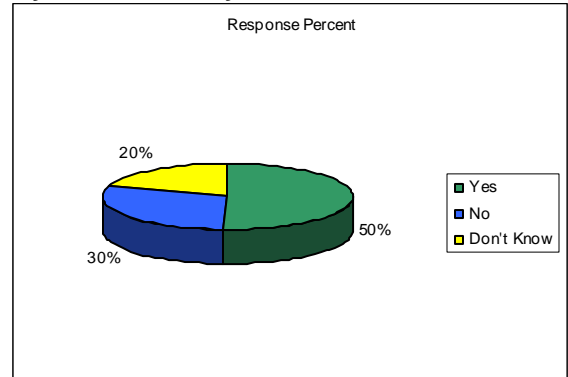
Survey Result for Question #5: Over half of the respondents were aware that ICC, NAHB and the NAHB Research Center had initiated a process to develop an ANSI standard for green building.

6. With the recent increase in energy costs, and sensitivity to reducing building impacts on human health and the environment, what has happened to the level of interest shown by your community with regards to green building?



Survey Result for Question #6: Nearly half of the respondents noticed a moderate increase in the level of interest in green building in their communities, and an additional one quarter of respondents saw a notable increase. Of the remaining respondents, just over one quarter did not notice an increase, and one percent actually saw a decrease.

7. Has a “green building” been constructed in your community?

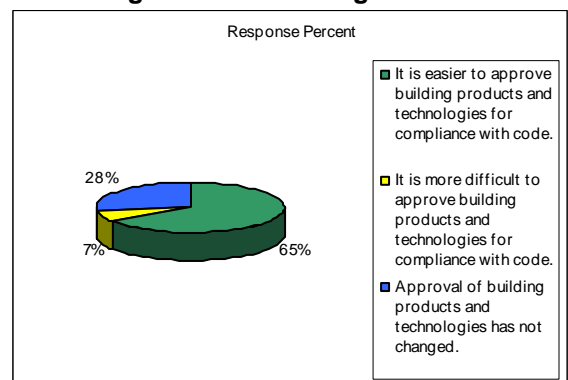


Survey Result for Question #7: Half of respondents indicated that a green building had been constructed in their community. In addition, over one quarter said a green building had not been constructed in their community, while under one quarter did not know. Note that most green building programs are currently independent of the requirements of the local jurisdiction, so it is quite possible that building officials may not be aware of all buildings which are built to “green” standards.

Part II – Green Building Products

8. With the submission of an ICC-ES evaluation report,

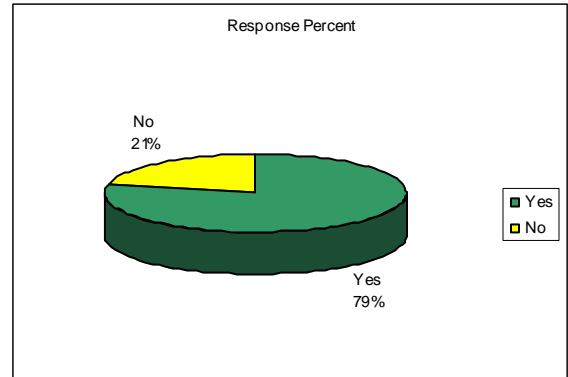
- **Is it easier to approve building products and technologies for compliance with code,**
- **Is it more difficult to approve building products and technologies for compliance with code, or**
- **The approval of building products and technologies has not changed**



Survey Result for Question #8: Nearly two thirds of respondents feel that it is easier to approve building products and technologies when an ICC-ES evaluation report is provided. Over one

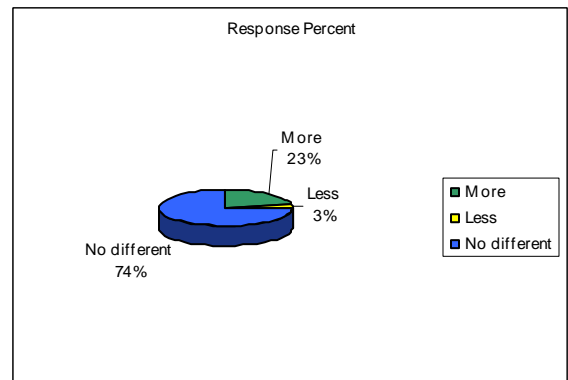
quarter, however, indicated that an evaluation report has no effect on the approval process, and seven percent said it was more difficult to approve products with an ICC-ES evaluation report.

9. In the execution of your duties as a building/fire safety official, do you believe there is a need to be able to define what constitutes a “green product” in an ICC-ES evaluation report?



Survey Result for Question #9: Over three quarters of respondents feel that it would be beneficial to define what constitutes a “green product” through the use of an ICC-ES evaluation report.

10. Presuming a certain building product or technology is certified as “green,” would such a certification subject the product to any more or less scrutiny with regard to the safety of the installation for code compliance?



Survey Result for Question #10: Nearly three quarters of the respondents indicated that a “green” product would not be subjected to any more or less scrutiny than a product which was not green. Nearly one quarter, however felt that “green” products are subjected to more scrutiny, while only three percent felt that they would be subject to less scrutiny.

11. Please indicate which technologies your department will likely be asked to evaluate for code compliance within the next 24 months:

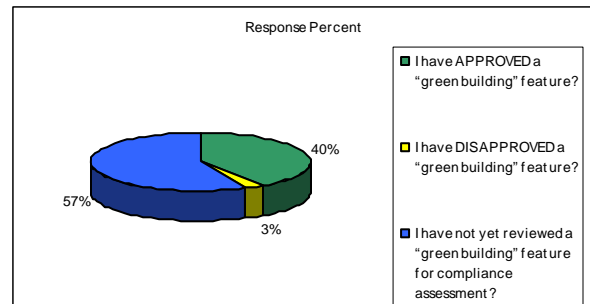
answer options	Very Likely	Somewhat Likely	Not Likely	Don't Know or Unsure
Energy efficient appliances/HVAC	60.0%	18.7%	17.3%	4.0%
Passive solar design for shade in summer and heat-gain in winter	30.7%	26.7%	33.3%	9.3%
Lighting schemes harvesting daylight instead of artificial light	28.8%	31.5%	31.5%	8.2%
Wind power	17.6%	20.3%	54.1%	8.1%
Solar-thermal or photovoltaic electricity	38.0%	25.4%	29.6%	7.0%
Solar hot water systems	31.9%	34.7%	27.8%	5.6%
Gray water or rain water catchments to save water	27.0%	24.3%	41.9%	6.8%
Alternative sewage disposal; waterless, low-water or composting toilets	21.9%	19.2%	49.3%	9.6%
Alternative building materials such as straw bale, rammed-earth, SIPs, aerated concrete, or products made from reclaimed wood, recycled glass or plastic, etc.	31.1%	28.4%	29.7%	10.8%
Hypoallergenic materials and finishes to minimize allergic reactions	17.6%	35.1%	39.2%	8.1%
LEED, Green Globes, Energy Star, HERS or other "green building" certification	39.4%	26.8%	28.2%	5.6%
Other unique requests...	21.5%	33.8%	27.7%	16.9%

Survey Result for Question #11: More than half of the respondents expected that it was more likely than not that they would have reason to evaluate each of the green features and certification criteria listed in the table above within the next 24 months, with the exception of wind power and alternative sewage disposal. Even so, 37% of the respondents felt it was more likely than not that they would have occasion to evaluate wind power, and 40% felt that it was more likely than not that they would have occasion to evaluate alternative sewage disposal systems.

Part III – Market Trends in Construction Approvals

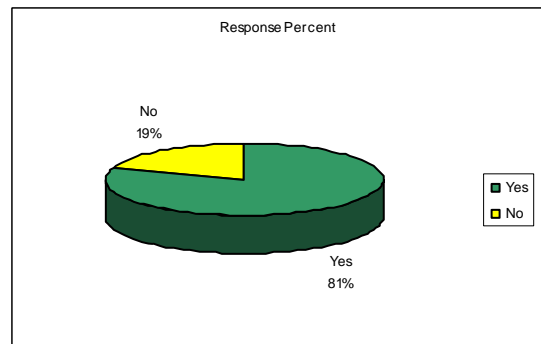
12. Based on what you would consider to be a "green building" feature...

- I have APPROVED a "green building" feature
- I have DISAPPROVED a "green building" feature?
- I have not yet reviewed a "green building" feature for compliance assessment?



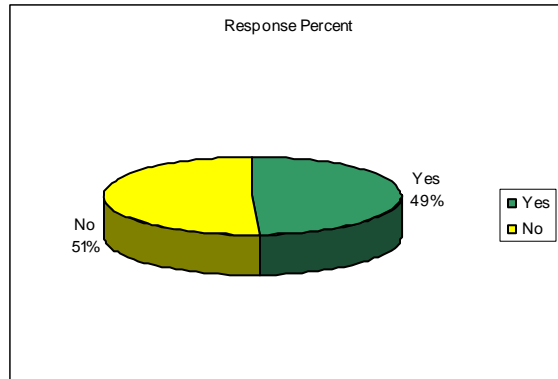
Survey Result for Question #12: More than half of the respondents had never approved a "green" building feature. Less than half had approved a "green" feature, and only 3 percent had ever disapproved such a feature.

13. Assuming the degree of building and fire safety in the code remains unaffected, would you support expanding your role in code enforcement to include compliance assessment or verification of "green building" features?



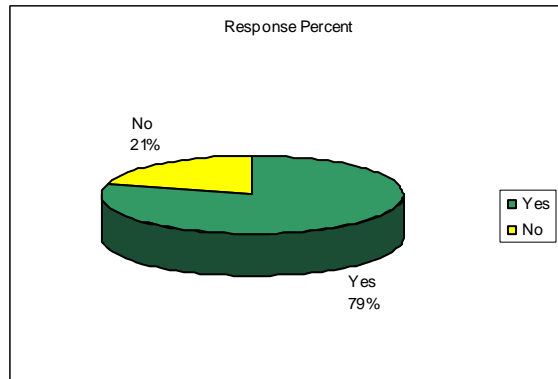
Survey Result for Question #13: Over three quarters of the respondents support expanding their role in code enforcement to include the evaluation and approval of green buildings.

14. Would you support the development of an expedited permitting process for projects that incorporate innovative “green building” strategies?



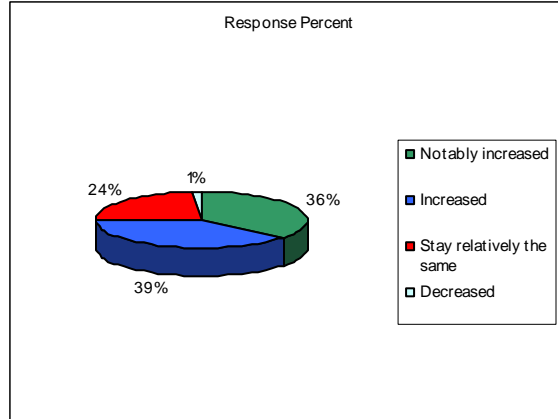
Survey Result for Question #14: The respondents are virtually split on whether expedited permitting should be used to encourage buildings to incorporate “green” principles.

15. Do you see the role of building codes being used as one component of a broader policy initiative to reduce the impacts buildings have on human health and the environment?



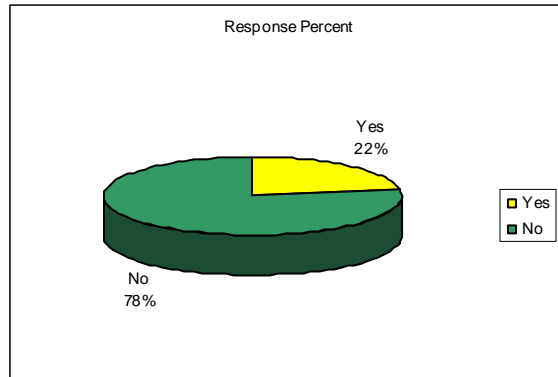
Survey Result for Question #15: Over three quarters of respondents feel that building codes can play a role in the initiative to reduce the impacts of buildings on human health and the environment.

16. With the recent increase in energy costs, and sensitivity to reducing building impacts on human health and the environment, what has happened to the level of interest shown by your state and community leaders in “green building” programs?



Survey Result for Question #16: In response to increases in energy costs and heightened sensitivity to reducing building impacts on human health and the environment, over one third of respondents indicate that they have seen an increased interest in green building programs by state and community leaders, and an additional one third indicated that the increase was notable.

17. Does your jurisdiction currently have a “green building” program?



Survey Result for Question #17: Less than one quarter of respondents had green building programs in place at the time the survey was taken.

SUMMARY, QUALIFICATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

As this survey was not a random sampling of ICC members, it may not be representative of the membership at large. The respondents found the green survey on the ICC website homepage, on which there was a link to the ICC Green Webpage (www.iccsafe.org/news/green/index.html). None the less, the survey gives a sense of the general knowledge, experience and views on green building among a sampling of ICC members who have an interest in, or actual experience with, green building. As green building and related issues, such as global warming, can be politically controversial topics, it is possible that some took the survey just to see how extreme this green movement is, gain some insight into its nature, and express their views to the extent the survey allowed. It is also possible that some respondents are beginning to feel political pressure to implement a green building program, or at least become knowledgeable about the subject. Because over half of the respondents said green buildings had been constructed in their community, and half expected to review green features within the next 24 months, yet only one quarter had green building programs in place in their jurisdiction, it is apparent that one quarter of respondents envision a green train coming down the tracks in their not to distant future. This confirms the growing interest in green building that is reported in the media almost daily in terms of jurisdictions which are implementing or considering the implementation of new green building programs. It appears that the respondents would like to be prepared for what they see as an inevitable green future. For nearly one quarter of the respondents, that future has already arrived.

As green building is a fast growing trend right now which is garnering a significant amount of media attention, it is not surprising that most participants had heard of it. But that does not mean that most of them knew what it actually was in any great detail. We did not ask questions which tested them on their knowledge of green building practices. However, as most were already familiar with the ICC/NAHB National Green Building Standard, The United States Green Building Council (USGBC), Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) and The Green Building Initiatives (GBI) Green Globes program, it is probably fair to say that most participants likely had a better than average understanding of what constitutes green building.

The majority of respondents did not feel that green building features should be subject to any more or less scrutiny than any other building feature. However, they did feel that Evaluation Reports might be beneficial, most likely because they anticipate that some green features may require approval as alternative materials and methods.

ICC would like to thank all members who responded to the green building survey and made this analysis possible. The Green Building Survey has confirmed the growing interest in green building among building officials and in their jurisdictions. ICC will continue to respond to green building member input. ICC took many bold first steps in 2007 regarding green building, most noteworthy being the development of the National Green Building Standard with the National Association of Home Builders, and the signing of an MOU with the United States Green Building Council to co-develop green building books and training programs from a code perspective. The year 2008 will see a continuation of those efforts, along with many new green endeavors.