**Stretch Code Energy Regulations**

Currently, the Massachusetts State Building Code uses the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code with some amendments to regulate energy use in projects that require a building permit. This regulation affects everything from lighting to boiler efficiency, but the meat of the regulation as it pertains to residential units is the thermal envelope. In FCCIP towns, Ashfield, Buckland, Conway, Gill, Leverett, Rowe, and Shutesbury have adopted the STRETCH Energy Code. There has been some confusion as to the requirements, especially for renovations and additions.

**Stretch Code Requirements for New Construction (1-2 family):**

- For units less than 3,000 sq. ft., a hers rating of 70 or less is required; for units >3,000 sq.ft., 65 or less.
- Demonstrate compliance with the Energy Star Qualified Homes Thermal Bypass Inspection Checklist.

**Stretch Code Prescriptive Option for Additions (1-2 family):** In lieu of the above requirements, additions that comply with all of the following will comply with stretch energy code:

- Comply with IECC requirements for new construction (see above).
- Demonstrate compliance with the Energy Star Qualified Homes Thermal Bypass Inspection Checklist.
- Meet the fenestration u-factor requirements as listed in Energy Star Program (.30 max u value windows, etc.)
- Perform a post construction duct test for all ducts and air handlers located in unconditioned space to demonstrate leakage to outdoors of less than or equal to 4cfm per 100sq.ft. of conditioned floor area.

**Stretch Code Prescriptive Option for Alterations, Renovations, and Repairs (1-2 family):**

- Whenever the building envelope is accessed, the affected portion of the envelope must comply with the prescriptive requirements for additions(see above).
- Envelope insulation must meet the minimum requirements of IECC 2009 or fully fill existing cavities with insulation that meets or exceeds an R value of 3.5 per inch.
- In lieu of the prescriptive requirements, a HERS rating of 80 or less for units >2000sq.ft. and 85 or less for units <2000sq.ft. will meet requirements.