City of Houston Residential Green Building Requirements

Link: <https://programs.dsireusa.org/system/program/detail/5593/city-of-houston-residential-and-commercial-green-building-requirements>

In 2014, the city of Houston passed an ordinance that required new residiential construction to be within the energy efficiency requirements of the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) and updated to the 2015 version in 2016. In 2023, this was updated to the 2021 version, which had two major impacts. The first was that new residential construction must include all necessary components for solar installation (in the event of future opt-in). The second was that all residential construction with parking must include an outlet, junction box, or receptacle nearby that could be used or add on an outlet for charging electric vehicles.

These policies help with climate change by maintaining standards of energy efficiency in the home and providing the necessary infrastructure to home owners to implement solar panels and purchase electric vehicles should they wish to. The technologies related to this ordinance include housing insulation, windows, and other energy efficient construction, as well as electric routing and roofing design. It does not require anything that might be considered state of the art and largely depends on just a little forethought on the housing architect’s part. I’m sure it’s cheaper to not implement some of these standards, but it also may be relatively similar to housing costs and market demands anyways. This cost would be on the construction company’s part as the home buyers would still be paying market price for new homes.