

**Background:**

The home building industry around the world has an interest in the continuous advancement of affordability, energy efficiency and quality in homes, leading to a better built environment.

A growing concern around the world is climate change and the need for reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases. Ambitious energy and climate policies are being developed in most countries, aiming at improving the energy supply balance and reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases.

Security of the energy supply is also an important concern around the world. A pressing issue is the strong dependence many countries have from a single external supplier of energy. Insecure energy supply and rising energy prices affects the economy of the society as well as for individuals.

Energy use in buildings is a focus. In many countries, about 40 % of the total energy use and 40 % of the total emissions of greenhouse gases can be attributed to buildings. Many nations have ambitious plans of introducing zero energy or nearly zero energy as future energy requirement in codes and regulations.

The IHA sees the potential for energy efficiency, pursued while also maintain housing affordability, to play an important role in the future of construction. Energy efficiency in new homes and improved energy efficiency in existing homes can save energy, save money on utility bills, and help protect the environment by reducing the amount of electricity and other energy forms that need to be produced and transported.

At the same time, to maintain affordability, the increase in the investment costs must be proportional to the energy savings achieved. The International Housing Association (IHA) therefore acknowledges the need to build environmentally responsible housing to the extent that it does not negatively impact on housing affordability and housing supply.

Intent:

The signatories – designated "we" in this public statement – have a common interest in supporting the continuing development and implementation of energy efficiency in new and existing homes while maintaining affordability. In pursuit of this, we intend to support energy efficiency in the following areas:

- We will share knowledge, best practices, and strategize regarding energy efficiency policy and programming.
- We will share information on our respective participation in energy efficiency related initiatives in our respective countries
- We will collaborate to communicate that it is critical that the advancement of energy efficiency in existing and new homes does not have a negative effect on housing affordability.
- We will collaborate with relevant existing industry organizations, associations, interest groups, or other forums to advance the above.

Review Commitment:

This statement is not intended to be legally binding on any of the IHA Member Organizations. No cause of action will arise with respect to compliance, or lack thereof, of any signatory party to the guidance and intent expressed in this Statement. This Statement is not intended to create, nor does it create, any right, benefit, or privilege, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity, against any of the IHA Member Organizations supporting this Statement.

The IHA Members will conduct a biennial review of this Statement of Intention and ratify or revise it, based upon consensus.

This statement became effective as confirmed by the members on February 19, 2016.

This statement was updated and reconfirmed on September 30, 2021.

This statement was reconfirmed on March 2, 2024.



IHA Secretariat

