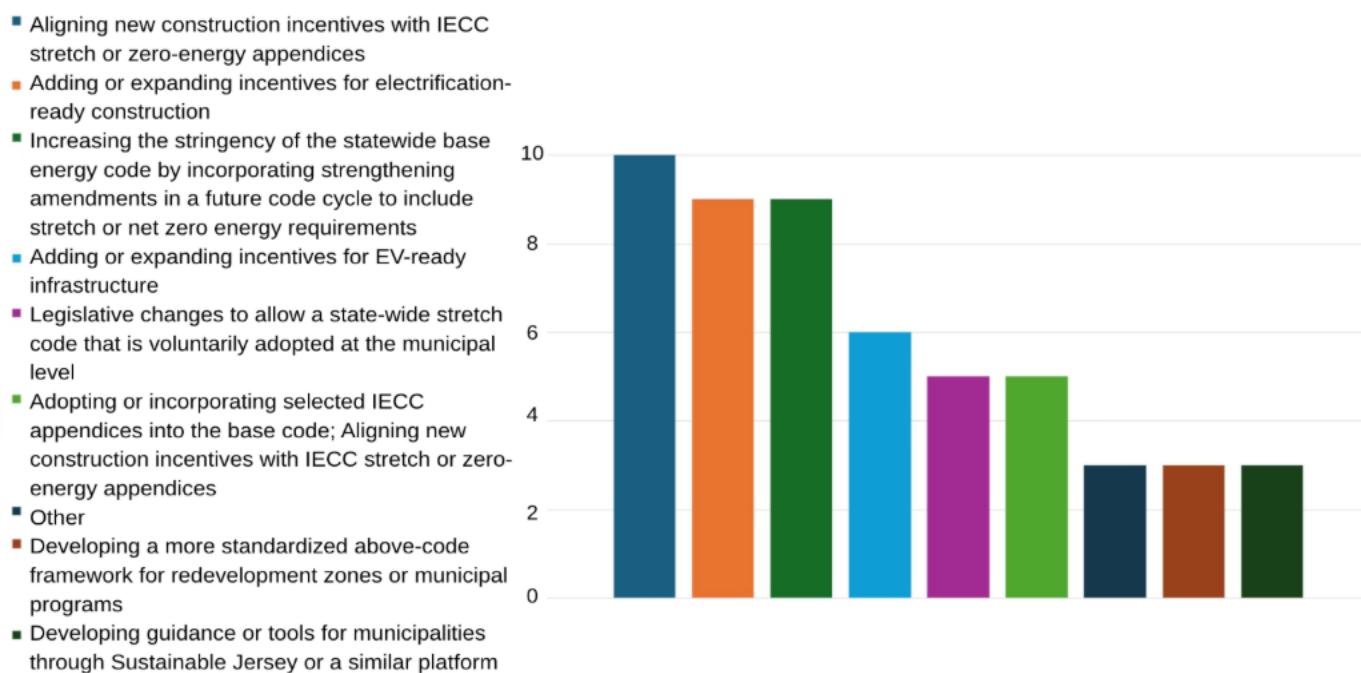


Stakeholder Survey

To obtain more direct stakeholder input following a series of NJ ECC and New Construction Subcommittee discussions, the project team conducted a voluntary survey in July 2026. The survey asked stakeholders which new-construction strategies should continue to be explored, what should receive near-term priority, their views on potential base-code and stretch-code pathways, the potential role of incentives, and the concerns that should be considered in evaluating above-code approaches.

The survey was distributed to approximately 50 members of the Energy Codes for New Construction Subcommittee, of whom approximately 25-30 regularly participate in meetings. The survey received 15 responses, including representatives of state agencies, building and housing interests, energy-efficiency and consulting organizations, and other stakeholders. Participation was voluntary and respondents had the option but were not required to identify themselves. The results, as shown in Figure 1, should be viewed as directional stakeholder input rather than a statistically representative survey or formal consensus of the NJ ECC.

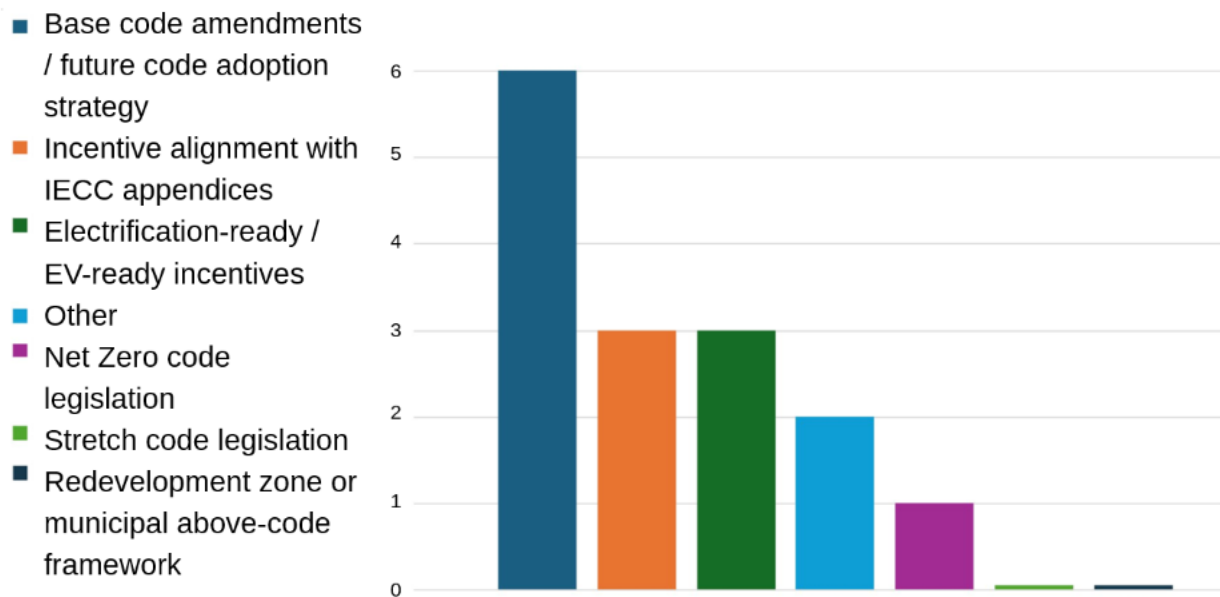
Figure 1. Areas stakeholders want to continue exploring (multiple selections permitted)



*Other suggestions included geothermal-related program alignment, additional cost-benefit analysis, and fuel-neutral incentive pathways.

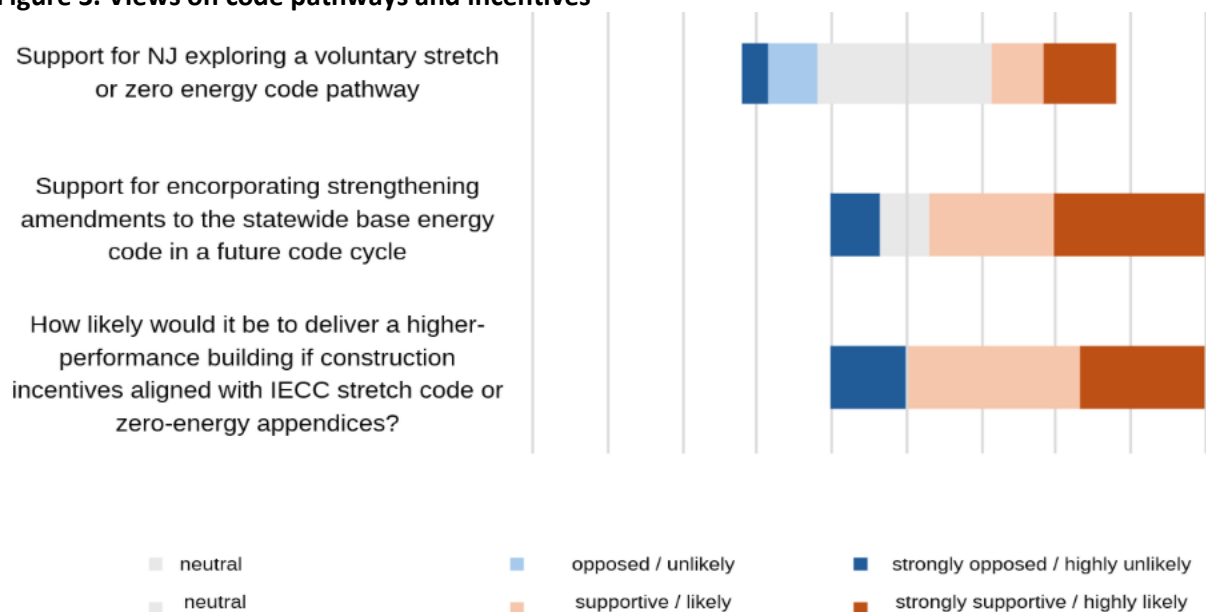
As shown in Figure 1, the stakeholders did not identify one exclusive pathway. The three most frequently selected options combine a code strategy with incentive-based approaches, suggesting interest in considering how statewide code updates, readiness measures, and existing incentive programs could work together.

Figure 2. Near-term priority



As shown in Figure 2, the statewide base-code strategy emerged as the leading individual near-term priority, although it did not represent a majority position. The responses indicate that stakeholders continue to see code advancement, incentives, and readiness measures as related rather than mutually exclusive strategies.

Figure 3. Views on code pathways and incentives



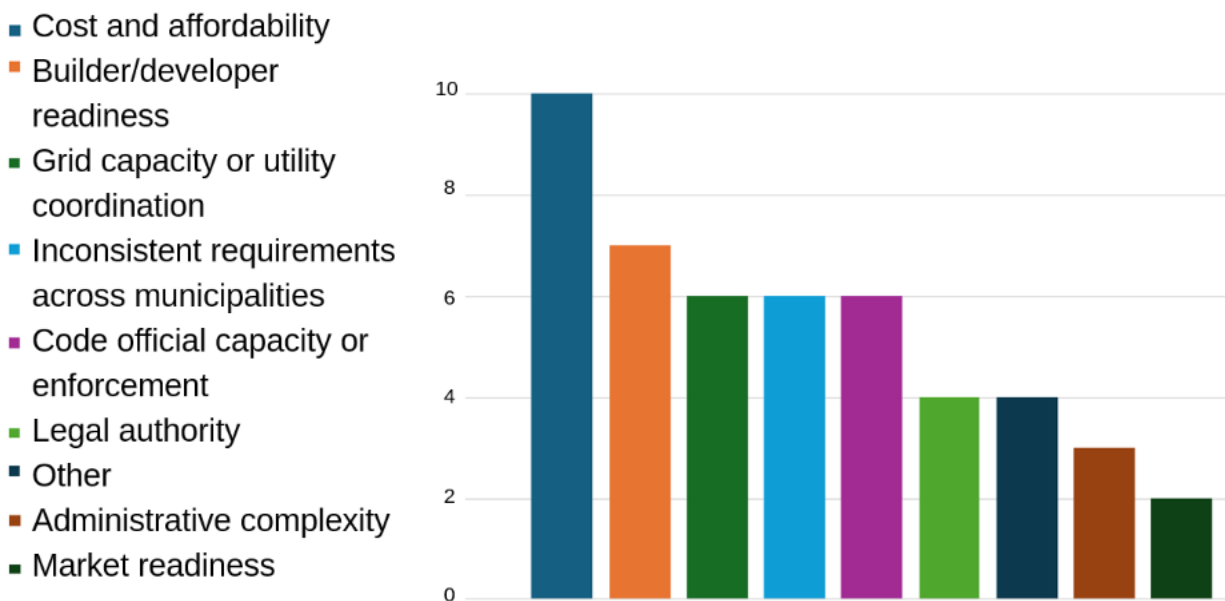
The survey showed generally positive views toward both potential code pathways, a voluntary stretch or zero energy code pathway. 80% of respondents (12 of 15) were supportive or strongly supportive of exploring a voluntary stretch or zero-energy code pathway, while 20% (3 respondents) were strongly opposed. There were no neutral responses, indicating a clear divide between a supportive majority and a smaller group with strong opposition.

For strengthening amendments to the statewide base energy code, 73% of respondents (11 of 15) were supportive or strongly supportive, 13% (2 respondents) were neutral, and 13% (2 respondents) were strongly opposed.

The survey also asked how likely better alignment of new-construction incentives with IECC stretch-code or zero-energy appendices would be to deliver higher-performance construction. 67% of respondents (10 of 15) considered this likely or highly likely, 13% (2 respondents) were neutral, and 20% (3 respondents) considered it unlikely or highly unlikely.

Both potential code pathways received substantial support among respondents, although neither had universal agreement. The voluntary stretch-code pathway showed the clearest polarization. This divide was driven largely by differing views on statewide code uniformity and municipal variation. Some respondents viewed a voluntary state-developed stretch code that would be adopted by municipalities as a useful pathway beyond the base code, while others preferred statewide base-code or incentive approaches and raised concerns about municipal variation, housing affordability, and implementation complexity. Respondents were also generally positive about the potential for better-aligned incentives to support higher-performance construction.

Figure 4. Concerns with above-code pathways



Stakeholder concerns extend beyond the technical requirements themselves. Affordability, statewide consistency, implementation capacity, grid coordination, and the legal/administrative pathway are likely to be important considerations in determining whether and how any above-code strategy could move forward.