

Energy Code Compliance Collaboratives Bulletin

1st Quarter 2015

This bulletin is designed to help the nine individual state Collaboratives keep up to date with each other's activities via succinct updates. As you work within your own Collaborative, we hope this bulletin supports your efforts by sharing information about what's working, what needs help, and new initiatives and ideas. Thank you for sharing!

COLORADO *Contact: Lauren Smith, Southwest Energy Efficiency Project (SWEET) lsmith@swenergy.org*

Recent successes: The Colorado Chapter of the ICC recently hosted its annual Educational Institute which was well attended. Regarding Denver's pending adoption of the 2015 IECC, there have been no major amendments proposed which would weaken energy efficiency. Several other jurisdictions in Colorado plan on or are evaluating adopting the 2015 IECC.

Current focus:

- Tracking adoptions of the 2015 IECC in the state
- Participating in 2015 IECC hearings for the City and County of Denver
- Collaborating with the Colorado Energy Office to plan and conduct energy code trainings
- Brainstorming ideas for assessing and improving commercial energy code compliance

Needs: The group has expressed interest in simplified energy code checklists for commercial buildings which would be used to assess code compliance. With the addition of Chapter 5 in the IECC, there have been more questions about existing buildings and the energy code. A summary document or other resources could be helpful in this area.

DELAWARE *Contact: Crystal Nagviski, DE Division of Energy & Climate Crystal.Nagviski@state.de.us*

Recent Successes:

- The relationship between collaborative members, the Division of Energy and Climate, and the Home Builders Association of DE (HBADE) has grown over the past year.
- Eighty-one individuals have been trained on the 2012 IECC (in late 2014), including on-site demonstrations of blower door and duct testing in all three counties.

Current Focus: To provide additional training throughout the state on the 2012 IECC and Delaware amendments. Also developing a HVAC-focused training to launch by this summer.

Needs/Challenges: Looking for additional stakeholders to represent the building industry fully on the Collaborative. In addition, we are looking for trade-specific training on energy codes and public outreach information.

IDAHO *Contact: Sharon Patterson Grant, Eco Edge / Green Steps Green Building Consulting and Education Sharon@buildingcoedge.com*

Recent successes: The 2012 IECC commercial was adopted on schedule statewide. The 2012 IECC residential was heavily amended, but supporters continue to discuss making it more stringent at every collaborative meeting and Idaho Building Code Board meeting. (Resistance is mostly from small group of Boise area production builders involved in the Building Contractors Association (BCA.)) The legislature just approved the mechanical requirement for whole house ventilation if 5ACH50 or under (it had previously been amended out.)

New Resources for Collaboratives!

[Summary of Four Consumer Surveys](#)

New presentation from NE Collaborative

- [Energy Codes 101 Powerpoint](#) (For state and local elected officials and others)
- [Energy Codes 101 handout](#)

Several jurisdictions are considering adopting the full 2012 IECC residential: The city of Ketchum adopted the full 2012 IECC residential; Idaho Falls adopted it but amended the requirement for a mandatory blower door test – Boise, Hailey and Ammon are considering similar amendments.

Current focus: We continue to focus on training and outreach; training on specific topics for specific audiences has been successful. For example, residential lighting has been a focus - we travel with light boxes and sample bulbs from local suppliers and teach on product, pricing, quality, and ROI. We are continuing to train on the full 2012 IECC, continuous air barriers, mechanical systems and commercial lighting.

We presented to a large audience at the recent statewide Building Contractors Association (BCA) annual meeting. Subsequently, the Northern Idaho BCA requested the same training in April or May. An invitation from these important stakeholders shows that our efforts to build positive relationships are working.

Outreach has been most successful by partnering with utilities to combine efforts and work to get references to code into their marketing materials so that homeowners can comparison shop or “benchmark against the new home down the street.” For example, “does your home have 50% CFL or LED light bulbs? A new home does”.

We are now moving into vetting the 2015 IECC.

Needs: More funding for training. Also, an opportunity to present the homeowner survey results to legislature when 2015 IECC is considered. Collaborative continues to build relationships with builders and other stakeholders.

MINNESOTA *Contact: Alison Lindburg, Fresh Energy Lindburg@fresh-energy.org*

Recent achievement / successes: The Verification and Interpretation Committee has completed a “common practices” document for code officials and builders on proper ways to achieve compliance with the changes to the new residential energy code. A few key cities have agreed to adopt the document and it will be made available on the collaborative’s website. The website will be made live soon and will feature resources, FAQs, and a list of available energy testers.

Current focus: The newly formed MN Collaborative is currently focused on creating educational materials around proper compliance techniques with the new residential energy code, creating a collaborative website, and conquering concerns with the new code. Next, they intend to move into more on-site education/outreach and potential financing opportunities.

Needs: More participation from utilities and builders; establishing credibility so that the builders associations and state departments will support the effort

NEBRASKA *Contact: Danielle Jensen, Nebraska Energy Office danielle.jensen@nebraska.gov*

Recent successes: [Energy Codes 101](#) was presented twice, to two new groups of State Senators –once in 2014, and once in 2015 to the Urban Affairs Committee, as there were new Senators on the committee. Energy Codes 101 is an overview of the benefits of the energy code, the code adoption process and state statutes. This is an opportunity to “change people’s minds” in regards to the importance and necessity of energy codes and compliance. The Senators asked thoughtful questions, which subsequently led to the Urban Affairs Committee agreeing to conduct an Interim Study (this summer) on energy codes.

Also, the Nebraska Energy Office disseminated a news release in July 2014 about the results of its recent commercial compliance study to raise public and elected official awareness about this issue. The news release can be viewed here: <http://www.neo.ne.gov/news/PR/CodeComplianceStudy.pdf>

Current focus:



- 1) Seeking other presentation opportunities for Energy Codes 101.
- 2) Working with the Urban Affairs Committee of the Unicameral to develop an Interim study to look at our state statutes concerning the Nebraska Energy Code, compliance rates and other issues.
- 3) Developing a survey to gauge construction practices, and determine how training has changed those practices.

Needs: How do we get our members “fired up?” There was great involvement in the first year, year and a half and then it tapered off.

NEVADA *Contact: Jim Meyers, Southwest Energy Efficiency Project (SWEEP) jmeyers@swenergy.org*

Recent successes: Held quarterly meeting, collaborative members attended the DOE Codes Conference the week of March 23rd, and continued participation of stakeholders.

Current focus: The Nevada Energy Code Compliance Collaborative held its quarterly meeting in February. Collaborative members are addressing questions of municipalities who are investigating the advancement to the 2012 IECC. The collaborative is openly discussing the concerns stakeholders are addressing in Nevada and continuing to looking for funding opportunities to provide educational opportunities in the state.

Needs: Resurgence of current code ambassadors and their ability to provide education to building departments and builders and trades on the energy code; funding for compliance studies, ambassador training, and builder and trade trainings.

NEW HAMPSHIRE *Contact: Scott Albert, GDS Associates Scott.Albert@gdsassociates.com*

Recent successes: The Collaborative met in March and selected a few new areas that they would like to dedicate some time and effort towards this year. One area we believe the Collaborative could be very helpful is with the review of the IECC 2015 by the Building Code Review Board (BCRB). The Collaborative has formed a subcommittee that will offer recommendations and advice in advance of the BCRB review of the 2015 Energy Code. Since we are a broad and diverse group of stakeholders, we hope to identify any contentious issues with the new energy code, and offer NH specific recommendations or amendments that will address these issues and support the BCRB in recommending the 2015 Energy Code.

Current focus: The New Hampshire Energy Code Collaborative spent a great portion of 2014 examining and researching building energy labeling, labeling programs that other states have used, and identifying what might work here in New Hampshire. The Collaborative’s focus remains on this topic as NH/VT have won a recent DOE grant that will kick off by May. The project, recently titled REVEAL: Recognizing Efficiency Value through Energy Asset Labeling, will be able to leverage the Collaborative’s research and use the Collaborative as a sounding board for future work done through this grant. The Collaborative would like to make a final recommendation on building labeling at an upcoming meeting.

Needs: Legislative Expertise. Legislative proposals to make the energy code “optional” have been retained in legislative committees for the summer. One NH House Bill, HB 288, has proposed to make the energy code portion of the building code optional. The Collaborative has kept an eye on this legislation, and has many legislative experts in the group, and will be meeting with other bill opponents to work on a strategy to make sure the committee members have sound information and guidance when they meet for their summer work session.

PENNSYLVANIA *Contact: Shari Shapiro, Calliope Communications shari@calliope-communications.com*

Recent successes: Collaborative leadership met with the Public Utilities Commission to discuss allowing utilities to provide support for energy code compliance initiatives and get credit toward their Act 129 goals (Pennsylvania’s Act 129 sets energy efficiency requirements for electric distribution companies).

Current focus: The Collaborative is considering the feasibility of potential new projects to improve code compliance in Pennsylvania: (1) an Energy Code Ambassador Program, and (2) a survey to determine the needs, attitudes and awareness of different targeted audiences (architects, engineers, construction industry and code officials and elected officials), in preparation for taking the next step in raising awareness, demand for, and support of energy codes. Specific tactics and funding opportunities are currently being explored.

Needs: Funding to implement Collaborative priorities.

TEXAS Contact: *Chris Herbert, South-central Partnership for Energy Efficiency as a Resource (SPEER)*
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Recent achievements/successes: Adoption of the state code continues to improve, and local adoption of higher codes is demonstrating a willingness and capacity for builders to market quality homes in our region.

Current focus: Texas Energy Code Compliance Collaborative (TECCC) continues to have quarterly meetings with stakeholders and address state specific issues.

Needs: There is much going on in Texas that needs to be communicated to the industry, including active legislation regarding code adoption, local adoption of higher codes, education, and our field study.

Ideas for future All-Collaboratives Bulletins?
Contact Maria Ellingson mellingson@bcapcodes.org or (419) 724-4571

¹ The South-central Partnership for Energy Efficiency as a Resource (SPEER) is initiating a Compliance Collaborative in Oklahoma; for more information contact Chris Herbert at cherbert@eepartnership.org.