

Nebraska Energy Code Compliance Collaborative – Meeting #4

Wednesday, September 25, 2013 | 9:30am – 11:30am CDT | NMPP Energy Headquarters | Lincoln, NE

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- **Mission Statement Approved** (see [final text](#))
- **Focus Area Committees – Progress Reports** (see [slideshow](#))
 1. **Secure Funding:** The utility code funding meeting will likely occur this fall. Statewide, electric utilities produce about 6,800 MW every year. Committee members estimate that 100% code compliance could save about 27 MW annually, or about 0.4%. However, the utilities plan for additional capacity increases of about 1.3% per year, so this is certainly a nontrivial reduction utilities should be interested in hearing more about once quantified. Utilities in Illinois have contributed \$200-300K to this effort in the past, committee members hope for some fraction of this through such an effort in Nebraska. **ACTION ITEM: Set meeting date; estimate program structure and costs**
 2. **Training:** An impressive depth and breadth of training opportunities across the state and stakeholder groups:
 - Appraisers: Three sessions (88 total attendees in Omaha, Lincoln, Sarpy County) attracted high interest and requests for more sessions
 - Builder building science: Session (64 total) by Matt Belcher, NAHB Build Green Committee co-chair
 - Code officials: Sessions on 2012 IECC and blower door testing (104 total, including 12 in Omaha) yielded interest for at least one more (DOE funding remains through June 2014); a test home achieved 0.9 ACH₅₀
 - Inspectors: Sessions by Jim Harper (Hastings, Columbus, Scottsbluff, Kearney) as state's resident code ambassador; stressed ACCA Manual J calculations for right-sized HVAC loads (estimates that 80-90% of new rural home HVACs are over-sized; another session will be in Omaha Oct. 11, possibly more in Alliance and Chadron; **ACTION ITEM: need to address HVAC community with more training opportunities**)
 - Real estate: Real Estate Commission approved 3-hour session by Garry Ruliffson (Oct. 16 and Nov. 22 in Omaha); includes code basics and how to sell high-performance and HERS-rated homes (now included on Omaha MLS listings, but need more data fields); training materials will be portable to other communities
 3. **Outreach:** **ACTION ITEM: Need more participation on committee and promoting training opportunities** (especially in western Nebraska); reach out more to NPPD? Commercial builders? ASHRAE? Other AIA chapters?
 4. **State and Local Policy:** Policy briefing for state legislators recommended to occur in first 10 days of Unicameral session in January 2014 (no committee meetings held then); briefing will cover how code process works, how Nebraska Energy Code is applied, and how ARRA compliance requirements will impact the state; need to be conscious of how adding another inspection will affect workload of city inspection offices; **ACTION ITEM: need homebuilder and contractor on this committee**
 5. **Compliance Evaluation (M&V):** Preparations have begun for the commercial compliance study as a service learning course for University of Nebraska students in architecture, arch engineering, and construction management. The spring semester course will feature classroom instruction and field demonstrations before the students observe and report on the 38 sample buildings. Expected completion by May 2014, report by June 2014.
- **PNNL Strategy Briefing on long-term plans for REScheck and COMcheck compliance software by DOE** (see [brief](#))
- **Next Meeting**
 - *Date:* Between mid-November and mid-December | *Venue:* TBD (likely NMPP Energy)
 - *Sponsorship:* Is your organization or one you know willing to sponsor one or part of one of the Collaborative's modest meeting costs to provide food and refreshments? If so, contact Danielle Jensen
- **Collaborative Homepage:** <http://energycodesocean.org/nebraska-energy-code-compliance-collaborative>
 1. [Sign Up](#) | 2. [Join the Group](#) | 3. [Start a Discussion](#) | 4. [Post a Resource](#)

Know someone interested in participating in the Collaborative and/or one of its focus area committees?

Contact Danielle Jensen of NEO at danielle.jensen@nebraska.gov or Chris Burgess of MEEA at cburgess@mwalliance.org