



MEMO

To: Pennsylvania Energy Code Collaborative (PECC)

Fr: Shari Shapiro

Date: 9/4/14

Re: Minutes from 8/13/14 PECC Meeting

The PECC held its fourth meeting on August 13, 2014. An attendee list is attached as Attachment A.

1. Next Steps

- Quarterly meetings for the PECC. The dates are tentatively anticipated to be in mid November, February and May. We will circulate specific dates in the next couple of weeks for your planning.
- Meetings/calls for the four subcommittees: municipalities, design/construction/trades, utility outreach, and public outreach.
 - Sign up of absent PECC members
 - Selection of a chair
 - Development by the next PECC meeting of a SINGLE GOAL for advancing energy code compliance in their respective sectors and a strategy for achieving it.
- Ongoing interface with DEP and PSD as the studies progress.

2. Acknowledgements

I want to thank the PECC participants for a fantastic meeting. I want to extend particular thanks to Dennis Maloskey, Libby Dodson and Mike Turns for presenting, to Anne McCollum, Libby Dodson and Maureen Guttman for helping with the planning and organization of the meeting and to the Building Codes Assistance Project (BCAP), the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and Pennsylvania State Association

Calliope Communications LLC

526 Winding Way Merion Station, PA 19066

shari@calliope-communications.com www.calliope-communications.com

of Township Supervisors (PSATS) for making the continuing work of the PECC possible through their financial support.

3. DEP Presentation

DEP presented its obligations, goals and plans regarding achieving 90% compliance with the 2009 IECC by 2017. Achieving this goal was an obligation assumed by Pennsylvania in accepting funds from the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA or the “Stimulus Bill”).

DEP is embarking on efforts to measure baseline compliance with the IECC. As discussed below, PSD Consulting has been awarded a grant from the Department of Energy (DOE) to measure compliance and certain interventions, and DEP is working to develop a similar study regarding commercial buildings.

The PECC offered its assistance with the design and implementation of the research, as well as contributing feedback and contacts for the study and potential interventions to increase compliance.

There was a robust discussion regarding the current status of energy code compliance is, and what achieving 90% compliance means. This is the major ongoing focus of the PECC, achieved through the following means:

- Outreach and education
- New methodologies
- Stakeholder engagement

4. PSD Consulting Presentation

PSD Consulting is the recipient of a major grant from DOE to assess energy code compliance with respect to single family residential construction in Pennsylvania, to implement various interventions to increase compliance over a two year period, and to re-evaluate compliance to determine the efficacy of the interventions.

PSD anticipates that the evaluation part of the study will take 6 months, followed by 2 years of interventions and another 6 months for re-evaluation.

Some of PSD’s proposed interventions include:

- Conducting focus groups (including code officials, builders, design professionals, third party inspectors, utilities and public utility personnel).
- Providing vouchers to builders for energy code compliance consulting at the time of pulling permits. PSD intends to train HERS Raters to provide the compliance consulting.

- Circuit riders to visit code offices around the state and provide 1-on-1 or specialized training, focusing on the 15 Metropolitan Statistical Areas in Pennsylvania
- An iPad based compliance checklist with links to support resources which can be used by code officials during inspection, and provided to contractors
- Traditional in-class training
- Webinars

5. Discussion

We had a robust discussion about the following topics:

- Challenges and opportunities for implementation of the studies and interventions
- Outreach to the construction and design community
- Efforts that can be undertaken by individual municipalities to advance energy code compliance
- Messaging of code compliance to the public
- Opportunities for engaging different stakeholder groups, like realtors, home inspectors, lenders, utilities, PEMA, etc.

Below are some highlights of the discussion:

A. Compliance Study and Interventions:

- The importance of winning the “hearts and minds” of code officials, changing their perception of the importance of energy code compliance.
- The importance of holding meetings at night or on-site at the code offices for ease of access to the training.
- The impact of political pressures on investing code official time and resources in energy code enforcement. In some municipalities, code officials are reportedly being told by politicians not to enforce the energy code.
 - PECC recommended:
 - including municipal politicians like Township Supervisors, etc. in the focus groups to gain deeper insight into these issues
 - Extending interventions and education to these groups
 - Encouraging municipal politicians to emphasize that energy code compliance was a priority.

- Skepticism that builders would be receptive to energy code training.
 - Potential solutions included:
 - Cooperative training opportunities for both builders and code officials at the same time.
 - Partnering with the local homebuilder associations to bring the training to the builders.
 - Providing marketing messaging to builders to convey the value of energy efficiency to homebuyers.
- The need for outreach to State Department of Labor and Industry.
- On the commercial side, reach out to building owners, not just contractors.
- The importance of outreach to the trades, not just the homebuilders.
- The importance of outreach to third party code inspectors.

B. Messaging to Consumers

We discussed the challenge of marketing “code compliant homes” to customers. One idea that emerged was to leverage the fact that most contractors do not meet the energy code, and that the contractors can market the fact that they engaged the HERS consultant to ensure compliance.

C. Additional Stakeholder Engagement

We discussed the importance of getting utilities to become more involved in energy codes. PSD has engaged with PECO and PPL to provide support for the study, and is soliciting participation from the other investor owned utilities. Regarding Act 129, we agreed that the PECC can be engaging with the PUC right now about planning for Phase 3, with a goal of including code compliance investment in the program.

We discussed opportunities for “bolt on” training of appraisers, realtors, home inspectors and lenders to support energy efficiency. NEEP is working on a set of tools targeted towards realtors and appraisers. This is beyond the scope of the PECC, but important for leveraging partnerships with other organizations like NEEP to deepen the impact of PECC’s recommendations, contacts and knowledge base.

D. Municipal Efforts

We discussed the strategies that could be undertaken by individual municipalities, like building benchmarking and disclosure, stretch codes, home inspector licensure, awards, incentives.

In addition, the importance of public statements that energy code compliance is a priority to the municipality.

E. Other

We discussed the issue of addressing energy use in existing buildings.

We discussed the opportunity of exploring the Better Buildings, Better Plants program by DOE.

6. Subcommittees

From the discussion, we honed in on four focused subcommittees: municipalities, design/construction/trades, utility outreach, and public outreach.

The goal is to get every PECC member signed up to participate on at least one subcommittee, which will identify one goal prior to the next PECC meeting.

ATTACHMENT A: LIST OF ATTENDEES

Name	Organization	Email	Subcommittee
Jeff Gentile	Pa. Assoc. of Code Officials/Upper Darby Twp.	jgentile@upperdarby.org	Design/Const/Trades
Vince Hurdock	PA Emergency Management Agency	vhurdock@pa.gov	TBD
Steve Swarney	American Institute of Architects-PA	sswarney@aiapa.org	Design/Const/Trades
Ian Hughes	Bayer Material Science	ian.hughes@bayer.com	Municipalities
Mike Turns	PSD Consulting	mturns@psdconsulting.com	Utilities
Colleen Kopp	General Builders and Contractors Association	ckopp@wojdak.com	TBD
Sean Wallace	ICC	swallace@iccsafe.org	TBD
John Caufield	NFPA	JCaufield@nfpa.org	TBD
Alex Dews	City of Phila.	Alex.dews@phila.gov	Municipalities
John Haak	City of Phila	John.haak@phila.gov	Municipalities
Kevin Rose	Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnership	krose@neep.org	Design/Const/Trades Utilities
Carli Feldman	Sierra Club	Carli.timpson@sierraclub.org	TBD
Evan Endres	PennFuture	endres@pennfuture.org	Utilities

Maureen Guttman	BCAP	Mguttman@bcapcodes.org	
Maria Ellingson	BCAP	mellingson@bcapcodes.org	
Anne McCollum	PA Construction Codes Academy	Amccollum@psats.org	
Kerry Campbell	DEP	kcampbell@pa.gov	Public Outreach
Libby Dodson	DEP	Libdodson@pa.gov	Public Outreach
Dennis Maloskey	DEP	dmaloskey@pa.gov	
Ray Lonabaugh	Nat'l Fire Sprinkler Assoc.	lonabaugh@nfsa.org	
Shari Shapiro	Calliope Communications	shari@calliope-communications.com	All