

Energy Code Compliance Collaboratives Bulletin

2nd Quarter 2014

This bulletin is designed to help the eight 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 lsmith@swenergy.org

Current Focus: Nineteen collaborative members completed a survey on collaborative goals and next steps. This survey has been helpful in identifying priorities and areas of need in training, adoption, and compliance. Current focuses are:

- Energy code trainings, measuring and improving compliance, funding opportunities, and building construction data. (SWEET is in the process of purchasing commercial construction data for the Southwest region which will help us identify trends and needs.)
- The Colorado Energy Office (CEO) is funding residential and commercial energy code trainings in Colorado through June 2014. The trainings are tailored to specific jurisdictions' needs and/or by topic. The Collaborative advises CEO on energy code training formats, supports CEO's training initiatives, and promotes energy code trainings via the collaborative.
- Several members of the collaborative collaborated on a proposal to Department of Energy (DOE) for the recent Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) for energy code compliance in residential buildings.

Needs/Challenges: As in the past, the lack of methodology for assessing energy code compliance has been an obstacle. We are glad to hear that DOE/PNNL is developing a methodology for measuring energy code compliance. Barriers continue to be lack of funding sources for a coordinator, getting the right people to code trainings, and keeping momentum around energy code compliance during times with no funding. Two additional challenges are evaluating and improving code compliance for commercial buildings and building construction in rural parts of Colorado.

Recent Successes: Collaborative members successfully submitted a proposal to DOE to measure and improve residential energy code compliance in Colorado. Partners include Colorado Code Consulting, EnergyLogic, CEO, Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA), TRC, and NREL.

New Stakeholders: A representative from RK Mechanical attended the last meeting. Also, a new staffer from the Denver City Energy Project will be somewhat involved in future energy code meetings.

DELAWARE Contact: Crystal Nagyiski, Crystal.Nagyiski@state.de.us

Current Focus: Training on the 2012 IECC.

Needs/Challenges: Providing adequate training for all; and dealing with state procurement system.

Recent Successes:

- Adoption of the 2012 IECC.
- On-site demonstrations of blower door and duct testing in all three counties.

IDAHO Contact: Ken Baker, <mailto:ken@kenergy.us>

Current Focus: Over the next few months Idaho will focus on implementation of code field assessments, especially for commercial buildings, in preparation for the January 1, 2015 change to the 2012 IECC. We are also working on amending the 2012 residential IECC to make more specific when whole-house ventilation is required.

Recent Successes: Two eastern Idaho jurisdictions are working on adoption of the full residential 2012 IECC.

NEBRASKA Contact: Danielle Jensen, danielle.jensen@nebraska.gov

Current Focus: The Collaborative is focusing on future funding for activities and training. Some of the ideas include utility code support funding and applying for in-state grants.

Needs/Challenges: We are working with MEEA and the utilities to show what kind of saving the utilities can benefit from by investing in code compliance support.

Recent Successes:

- A “Senator Information Session” resulted in the push for more sessions to other interested stakeholder groups, and a request for more information about codes in Nebraska from a State Senator.
- The Nebraska Energy Office recently completed a Commercial Code Compliance Baseline study with the help of University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) students. It was the idea of the Collaborative to work with UNL on data collection. The students, architecture/engineering students, were given training and then used as data collectors for the project. As a side-result of this study, the Collaborative is investigating the potential of a long term partnership with the University to teach students about all codes. This project was the only exposure in their college curriculum to codes.

New Stakeholders: Representatives from products, HVAC, the UNL college of Architecture, and an individual who is a HERS rater/Mechanical Engineer/UN faculty.

NEVADA Contact: Jim Meyers, jmeyers@swenergy.org

Current Focus: The Nevada Energy Code Compliance Collaborative held their quarterly meeting in mid-May. Collaborative members participated in the development of a proposal to U.S. DOE for energy code compliance training and outreach. No code trainings are scheduled at this time. Additionally, SWEEP is in the process of purchasing commercial construction data for the Southwest region which will help us identify trends and needs.

Needs/Challenges: Continuing ongoing needs include funding for individual in Nevada to facilitate collaborative; participation by building departments that don’t have the capacity or that have not yet participated in the collaborative. Funding to support code education, compliance verification, and administering the collaborative (this may be accomplished with a proposal win).

Recent Successes: Collaborative members successfully submitted a proposal to DOE to measure and improve residential energy code compliance in Nevada. Partners include BMG, CADMUS, Green Alliance, SWEEP and Nevada Energy Code Compliance Collaborative.

New Stakeholders: None; good participation on quarterly meeting with approximately 20 people attending.

NEW HAMPSHIRE Contact: Scott Albert, Scott.Albert@gdsassociates.com

Current Focus:

- The NH Energy Code Collaborative has decided to spend the next several months focusing solely on Building Energy Labeling efforts in our state in the near term, due to a general lack of rescues and man-power; identifying stakeholder groups and issues associated with building energy labeling and in the fall and judging where there might be room for policy recommendations. One major finding of the NH Energy Code Compliance Roadmap was that education was needed for each stakeholder or market actor group. We believe that building energy labeling could be an excellent way to educate and raise awareness of the energy code in our state.
- In an ongoing project, Collaborative Secretary Bruce Buttrick will be working with the NH Building Officials Association to conduct surveys of their membership to learn how attitudes and perceptions of code compliance have changed over the last four years. The Collaborative is also seeking to add new and interesting guest presenters at upcoming meetings.

Needs/Challenges: Funding, lack of resources and time. We need to keep the momentum of the group going – we hope to re-energize our monthly meetings with guest speakers and get some small successes under our belt. We have

identified a number of priority action items within our collaborative that could be focused on in 2014, but do not have any resources (funding or staff) to help move them along.

Recent Successes: Redefined focus. We think this will boost interest among members. Also (from Q1, 2014):

- Continued collaborative, following loss of facilitation funding
- Reviewed and prioritized barriers and potential action items for multiple market actor groups
- Presented on Code issues a various forums throughout 2013
- Although outside the direct control of the Collaborative, successfully ran a 10+ code/beyond code workshops to residential, commercial and realtor audiences

New Stakeholders: We would really like to get more realtor and real estate professional involvement since our newly narrowed focus on building energy labeling will have impacts on this stakeholder group.

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

Current Focus:

- Working with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to measure compliance with the 2009 Energy Code, and make recommendations for improving compliance.
- Culling brainstormed ideas for increasing energy code compliance into workable, innovative tools.
- Soliciting stakeholders, especially representatives from the homebuilding industry, insurance and other underrepresented sectors.
- Creating subcommittees to undertake work between Collaborative meetings.

Needs/Challenges: Securing funding and broadening the stakeholder base.

Recent Successes:

- At the last PA Collaborative meeting, we brainstormed “crazy” ideas for increasing energy code compliance. It was a very exciting dialogue of ideas to take code engagement to the next level; ideas ranged from providing gift cards to code officials to using video game technology to simulate buildings and review energy code compliance.
- Formed subcommittees derived from focus areas in the [PA Strategic Compliance Plan](#): Securing Funding; Training; Outreach; State & Local Policy; Compliance Evaluation (M&V).
- Working with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to explore strategies to measure compliance with the 2009 energy code and make recommendations for improving compliance.

TEXAS Contact: *Chris Herbert*, cherbert@eepartnership.org¹

Current Focus:

- Expanding the Energy Code Ambassador Program to include additional areas of the region.

Recent Successes:

- The Texas Energy Code Compliance Collaborative met on 7/8/14 to review the findings of the SPEER Texas Adoption and Compliance Study, which will be published later this month. The study found significant improvement in the local adoption of the 2009 Energy Codes by some of Texas’s largest cities, as well as an increasing number of cities adopting higher codes.

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.

A Best Practice Highlight for Consideration by Collaboratives: Energy Code Ambassador Program (ECAP)

Energy Code Ambassadors are experienced building code officials who have been specially trained and certified on the energy code, and voluntarily offer expertise and support to peers in their state. They provide customized assistance to other code professionals or the construction and design industry, such as providing an overview of the state energy code, assisting with a plan review or site inspection, discussing compliance software issues, or presenting a specific topic such as air barriers, or mechanical requirements. ECAPs were recently launched in two states:

Ohio

Six Energy Code Ambassadors have worked together to develop six classes approved by the state for Continuing Education Units (CEUs). With support from two Ohio utilities: [Columbia Gas of Ohio](#) and [AEP Ohio](#), the Energy Code Ambassadors are educating their peer code officials in neighboring jurisdictions, and providing free CEUs to participants. To date, they have visited neighboring jurisdictions 25 times, educating more than 650 code officials.

Texas

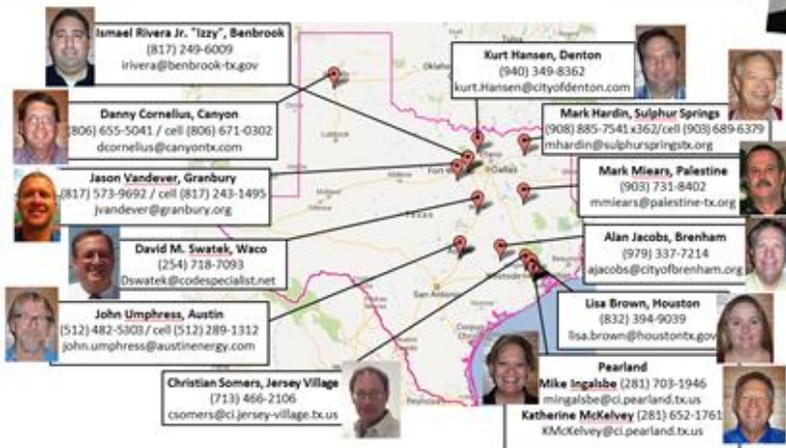
With support from the [Southwest Partnership for Energy Efficiency as a Resource \(SPEER\)](#) and the [Building Codes Assistance Project \(BCAP\)](#), thirteen code officials in Texas have become Energy Code Ambassadors, providing a network of support for code officials regionally. They meet monthly to coordinate efforts at improving energy code adoption, compliance, and enforcement in Texas.

For more information on the Energy Code Ambassador Program, visit energycodesocean.org/ecap

Ohio Energy Code Ambassadors



Texas Energy Code Ambassadors



Ideas for future All-Collaboratives Bulletins?

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