

Energy Code Compliance Collaboratives Bulletin

November 2013

Welcome to the first Energy Code Compliance Collaboratives bulletin. The goal for this bulletin is to provide a way for the eight individual state Collaboratives to keep up to date with each other's activities via a succinct update for each state. As you work within your respective state Collaboratives, we hope that this bulletin will support all of your efforts by sharing information on what's working, what you could use help with, and new initiatives and ideas happening in state Collaboratives. Thank you for sharing!

COLORADO Contact: Lauren Smith lsmith@swenergy.org

Current Focus:

- 2015 IECC Hearings Report
- Review of recent Colorado-based compliance studies (one by Xcel Energy, and one conducted by the state)
- Conducting a survey of Collaborative members to help determine the next steps for the Collaborative
- Funding

Needs/challenges: The Colorado Compliance Collaborative is maintaining some level of a collaborative process without funding or policy direction. Challenge: How to obtain a multi-year funding stream for energy code compliance support? Commercial code compliance is the biggest area in need of improvement – what are the best approaches?

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

Current Focus: The DE Collaborative is currently focused on working with the Home Builders Association of DE to adopt the 2012 IECC and 2010 ASHRAE standard in Delaware. They have just completed a several month review process of the codes and now are moving forward with the regulation promulgation process. The Collaborative is also working on a training and education plan to accompany the adoption of the new codes. They will then move on to marketing of training and general outreach/education to public.

New stakeholders involved in the Collaborative: Some new builders joined in the last month and will be presenting at the Delaware Appraisers conference in April where they hope to engage Appraisers to join the Collaborative.

Needs/challenges: Effective training to trades (HVAC, plumbers, insulators, etc) and funding for training/marketing.

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

Current Focus: A "builder relationship building program" was launched. The focus is to look at those code requirements that builders have issue with, such as whole house ventilation, and help them to truly understand not only what code is trying to do but what they may want to do for their customers. The Livable Building training is one tool we are using for working with builders. So far we have three sessions, 1. Understanding the thermal barrier, 2. residential ventilation and, 3. Residential lighting. Each session is delivered via a hosted full breakfast. The sessions are two hours long, very to the point and designed to be very interactive. A big objective is to get builders to talk with each other and us on these efficiency/code topics. So far it has worked very well. We deliver three sessions of each topic so that we have statewide coverage. Here is the link for session 2: <https://www.idahocities.org/forms.aspx?FID=252>

New stakeholders involved in the Collaborative: A new southeast Idaho building official group joined the Collaborative.

Needs or barriers that you could use advice on: How do you engage builders in energy codes? We also have the builders pushing for a six-year code cycle. How do others respond to this type of request?

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

Current Focus: The Nebraska Energy Office (NEO) and the Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (MEEA) are leading efforts to move energy code compliance forward, with a strict focus on compliance with the energy code, not “above-code” programs. The thirty(+) collaborative members have organized into five working committees to act on specific issues, as described below.

1. **Utility involvement:** Collaborative members are working to convene a meeting with the three largest municipal utilities (note: the state of Nebraska is 100% public power) and local code enforcement representatives to discuss the potential benefits to both parties of utility support for increased energy code compliance.
2. **Training:** Collaborative members would like to expand the reach of training videos or webinars to new audiences (University extension folks, others). NEO is planning to offer training to the real estate industry.
3. **Outreach:** Notify everyone with training opportunities to increase people in the room (Chamber of Commerce could do outreach on trainings; building suppliers can help get the word out; invite vendors (HVAC and insulation, building envelop contractors all invited to show off their products) to the job site during training (and offer beer and hot dogs).
4. **State and Local Policy:** State legislators aren’t aware of the 2017 ARRA goal of 90% compliance. NEO is organizing a “Senator Information Session” to brief state legislators (with special focus on reaching rural legislators) about issues, opportunities, and the importance of energy codes in Nebraska. Collaborative members will assist with urging elected officials to attend.
5. **Compliance Evaluation (M&V):** NEO is planning to conduct an assessment of energy code compliance in Commercial buildings in Nebraska.

NEVADA Contact: Jim Meyers, jmeyers@swenergy.org

Current Focus: Via an online survey, members of the Nevada Collaborative are now determining the next focus area for the Collaborative, after having recently worked together to defend a Las Vegas rollback effort brought forth by a city council representative to exempt the energy code for existing buildings, the Collaborative members worked to educate Las Vegas City Council members on the benefits of the code to preserve the law. Unfortunately the city council members voted 4-3 to rescind the energy code for existing buildings, with the Mayor casting the deciding vote. Collaborative members fear that this newly-established precedent will lead to additional cities rescinding the energy code for existing buildings. However, subsequent conversations Collaborative members have had with city council members – explaining the impacts of their decision – seems to have improved city leader’s understanding of the importance of the energy code. In fact, one Collaborative member reported that following a conversation with Mayor Carolyn Goodman, the Mayor said that if she had understood the issue better prior to voting, she would have voted differently (which would have protected the energy code for existing buildings).

Needs/challenges: The lack of funding for a dedicated staff person to follow up on Collaborative priorities is hindering the potential of the group.

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

Current Focus: The NH Compliance Collaborative has maintained a tight knit group of dedicated individuals that continue to meet monthly to identify specific tasks that they can do to make a difference; including efforts to prioritize stakeholder-specific barriers and identify/pursue strategies to overcome them.

Utility funding for a code officials survey: PSNH, a NH utility, will provide funding to support the Collaborative’s effort to survey NH Code Officials on code enforcement. A similar survey was conducted by GDS Associates in 2009 as part of a larger code compliance project following NH’s receipt of Recovery Act funding. Collaborative members hope to better understand what code officials think about the code today (i.e., is it being enforced in their region?) and compare responses to the 2009 survey. Planning has just begun, and will be a topic at the next Collaborative meeting in November.

Training: The NH Code Challenge is holding nine or more energy code workshops this fall. In October an “in-field”

residential code training was held, and additional Commercial and Residential classroom-setting workshops will occur over the next month and a half.

Collaborative members hope to involve some senior students from a local university to help in some of their efforts, including the Code Officials survey.

Funding: Collaborative members have started to think about where funding for some ideas will come from; they would appreciate advice on how to stretch the dollars they have.

Needs/challenges: Need to determine current baseline level of compliance with IECC 2009 (residential) and ASHRAE 90.1-2007 (commercial), using US DOE protocols, with no budget or resources. Until a formal baseline is in hand, stakeholders do not have sufficient evidence to document the extent of compliance, or factually determine even if there is a problem. NH-specific challenges are 238 separate towns, 2/3rds of which have full or part time code officials, the rest without.

Numerous other code compliance education, outreach and tools/resource development activities have been identified as priorities that are being pursued by the Collaborative including:

- Purchasing and planned distribution of 200, IECC 2009 code books to targeted audiences through code workshops and other venues.
- Planned printing and broad distribution of NEEP/NH Code Collaborative-developed “checklist” handout to call out energy efficient elements in homes for sale.
- Planned re-printing of 200 +/- the NH Residential Field Guide for distribution to appropriate in-state builders/stakeholders.

PENNSYLVANIA *Contact: Shari Shapiro, sashapiro@cozen.com*

Current Focus: In September, Pennsylvania became the newest state to initiate a Code Compliance Collaborative, organized by BCAP, Penn Future, and attorney Shari Shapiro of Cozen O’Conner Public Strategies. The meeting was attended by over 25 stakeholders, who developed a short list of potential priorities they will focus on at the next meeting in November. In addition to compliance strategies, PA stakeholders are working to amend the statewide adoption process to allow for the 2012 IECC to be adopted.

Needs/challenges: The Pennsylvania Collaborative will need to identify one or two priority issues, and engage current and new participants in order to set goals and identify a work plan.

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

Current Focus: The next Texas Code Compliance Collaborative meeting for 2013 is planned in December. In October, SPEER, BCAP, and ICC with support from the Texas State Energy Conservation Office (SECO) and the Collaborative launched an Energy Codes Ambassador Program (ECAP) in Texas, with 13 code enforcement individuals participating to become Energy Code Ambassadors. SPEER is leading the Compliance Collaborative, and has plans to reach out to cities to improve compliance in 2014. Other items:

- SECO will host an energy code stakeholder meeting regarding possible updates to the Texas Building Energy Performance Standards. The meeting is open to the public and attendance is encouraged from commercial and residential builders, architect and engineers, municipal, county and other local government authorities, environmental groups and any other interested parties. **When:** November 15, 10 AM CST. **Location:** room 1-100 of the Travis Building located at 1701 N. Congress Ave, Austin, TX.
- Chris Herbert will speak at the Clean Air Through Energy Efficiency (CATEE) conference about the TX Energy Code Collaborative on Wednesday, December 18. More at <http://catee.tamu.edu/program>

Successes: Texas now has 23 cities which have adopted the 2012 IECC, which includes over 1 million in population. SECO’s November 15 stakeholder meeting will discuss the statewide adoption of 2012 Commercial Energy Codes.

Let us know what you think about this Bulletin, what you’d like to see in future Bulletins, or your other thoughts on how we can help meet your communication needs: Maria Ellingson (419) 724-4571 mellingson@ase.org

