

Energy Code Compliance Collaboratives Bulletin Reporting on 2nd Quarter 2015

This bulletin is designed to help 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*

Current focus: The Colorado Energy Code Compliance Collaborative is working with the Colorado Energy Office to conduct an energy code compliance assessment for commercial buildings in the state to take place within the next year. The Collaborative is also tracking and supporting adoptions of the 2015 IECC in the state and looking at developing energy code compliance tools and trainings. The state is reviewing its determination regarding the 2015 IECC and ASHRAE 90.1-2013.

Needs: During its last quarterly meeting, the Collaborative discussed the following needs: HBA engagement with HERS education, energy code compliance tools for the 2015 IECC, and resources for multifamily buildings. Simplified checklists for commercial energy code compliance would also be of use.

Recent achievement / successes: Colorado Code Consulting and the Colorado Energy Office recently completed a series of energy code trainings for the state. There was high demand for the trainings and increased interest from design professionals.

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

Current focus: The Collaborative is:

- Supporting jurisdictions interested in adopting more stringent versions of the 2012 IECC, which was heavily amended by the State.
- Vetting the 2015 IECC to discuss among collaborative and present results and recommendations to the Idaho Building Code Board.
- Continue to focus on education and training and outreach with key stakeholders. In particular, continuing to work with the local utility to incorporate energy code references and priorities into marketing materials, e.g. bi-annual free standing insert for newspapers. Member of collaborative recently appointed to 2018 national code development committee (Jerry Peterson).

Needs: The education budget was cut so there won't be as much training happening this year.

Recent achievement / successes: The state amended its adopted 2012 IECC to require mechanical ventilation for homes with less than 5 ACH50 (that provision was previously amended out). Four jurisdictions have adopted a more stringent version of the 2012 this year: Ketchum adopted full 2012; Hailey, Idaho Falls and Ammon adopted full 2012 but are not requiring blower door testing. Boise is evaluating, discussing and considering a more stringent 2012 IECC separate from the State.

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

Current focus: The Collaborative's current focus is on education and outreach planning and implementation, including a pre-session training day with the annual MEEA codes conference in Minneapolis in November.

Needs: Funding for increased education and outreach.

Recent achievement / successes: The Interpretation and Verification Committee met regularly to create a finished residential energy code changes "common practices" document to help builders, contractors and code officials, which was just approved by the entire collaborative on July 15th. That document, as well as an FAQ, a working list of raters, and a list of resources, will be available on the collaborative website.

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

Recent successes: Thanks to the Collaborative's outreach to legislators, the Legislature's Urban Affairs Committee will be holding an Interim Study hearing on *Issues Surrounding the Nebraska Energy Code* on October 23, 2015.

Current focus:

- 1) Seeking other presentation opportunities for Energy Codes 101.
- 2) Developing a survey to gauge construction practices, and determine how training has changed those practices.
- 3) Creating / collecting articles for publication to support code compliance, address code questions and raise awareness of its importance.

Needs: We need to measure the success of Collaborative: Do members feel valued? What do members gain from it? What areas do we want to see improvement in?

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

Current focus: The Collaborative held discussions with energy office and utilities on funding utilization for energy code educational opportunities.

Needs: More funding is needed for training. In those areas where the 2012 IECC is under review by local governments, additional educational opportunities are needed. The Collaborative needs to continue building relationships with builders and stakeholders; an infusion of new participants to the collaborative would be helpful.

Successes: The 2012 IECC became effective statewide on July 1, 2015. Local jurisdictions have adopted the energy code early in Clark County and City of Henderson. A legislative bill amended the air leakage rate for residential construction from 4 ACH to no higher than 7 ACH for detached single family housing and 4.5 ACH for attached housing. Northern Nevada communities and Builders Association of Northern Nevada (BANN) continue to review the 2012 IECC and participate in discussions for eventual adoption.

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

Current focus: The NH Energy Code Collaborative is continuing to focus on Building Energy Labeling. It is working on developing a set of recommendations which will be passed along to the NH Office of Energy and Planning and GDS Associates for their work on Building Energy Labeling with State Energy Program (SEP) grant funding. This project, which is being led by the Vermont DPS and Vermont Energy Investment Corporation (VEIC), is called REVEAL (Recognizing Efficiency Value through Energy Asset Labeling). The Collaborative is hoping to have these recommendations finalized at its next meeting.

A new focus of the group is on the IECC 2015. The New Hampshire Building Code Review Board has begun public hearings on the new ICC suite of codes. The Collaborative formed a subcommittee to focus on issues specific to the Energy Code and to develop possible recommendations and amendments.

Needs: More representation in our membership. As the collaborative is currently assessing a possible model for Building Energy Labeling in the state, it is looking to re-engage some stakeholder groups that have been lost along the way. It would like to engage more Real Estate professionals, lenders and appraisers. The collaborative also needs to establish a new set of goals/areas to work on for the end of 2015 and beginning of 2016. It will be reviewing the NH Energy Code Compliance Roadmap to prioritize new areas for the group's focus.

Recent achievement / successes: A recently held meeting on the IECC 2015 has sparked new interest and enthusiasm among members. They hope to carry this through the code adoption process to help support the Building Code Review Board in their review and recommendation of this new code to the NH Legislature. The collaborative is also re-configuring its leadership roles, and has appointed one new Co-Chair, Bruce Buttrick - a local code official active in many organizations such as ASHRAE, the NH Building Officials Association, as well as the Code Collaborative. The collaborative will vote in another Co-Chair and a Secretary at an upcoming meeting.

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

Recent Successes: The initial phase of the collaborative has been completed; the group has considered the gaps and opportunities in Pennsylvania, and prioritized and documented the state's needs into projects that could become fundable initiatives. The collaborative is thankful for the dedication of Shari Shapiro over the past year, whose leadership was instrumental in getting the group established and to its current standing. The group will now be led by the Northeast Energy Efficiency Alliance (NEEP) with support from BCAP and others.

Current Focus: The group will utilize its findings to determine the next steps of action.

Needs: Funding to implement projects, and greater participation of builders.

TEXAS *Contact: Chris Herbert, South-central Partnership for Energy Efficiency as a Resource (SPEER) cherbert@eepartnership.org¹*

Current focus: Texas Collaborative meeting scheduled for July 15th.

Needs: Working to get all stakeholders engaged to address recent adoption of 2015 IECC which goes into effect Sept. 1, 2016. This recently passed legislative action in Texas will require additional training to encourage local adoptions, promote understanding of new requirements and the ERI pathway.

Recent achievement / successes: Broad interest by stakeholders to work together in the coming year to meet compliance with these new codes.

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.