

## Energy Code Compliance Collaboratives Bulletin Reporting on Spring 2016

This bulletin is designed to help individual state Collaboratives keep up to date with each other 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.

### Collaborative news from BCAP:

- The BCAP website has moved! Our new website is [BCAPcodes.org](http://BCAPcodes.org).
- While the BCAP –Appraisal Institute (AI) – NAHB “[Guidance Letter](#)” for builders, appraisers, and lenders is getting enthusiastic support from states and advocates for better appraisals for high-performing homes, we are now working with the NAHB and the National Association of Realtors (NAR) on one for real estate professionals. Watch for it... it's coming soon!

**COLORADO** *Contact: Christine Brinker, Southwest Energy Efficiency Project (SWEET) [cbrinker@swenergy.org](mailto:cbrinker@swenergy.org)*

**Current focus:** We are advising on and closely following the progress of Colorado's Commercial Compliance Study. It includes a top-10 list of energy uses by building type and the corresponding code elements, so plan reviewers and inspectors can focus efforts on the highest-impact items. And we continue to track and encourage local adoptions of the 2015 IECC.

**Needs:** We need to increase our active membership to compensate for retirements, job changes, etc., although we have a very strong core group. And we need to continue getting the word out to Colorado's local jurisdictions that they should go to the full 2015 I-codes package and not leave the energy code stuck behind in an earlier version. And finally, we need to continue educating Colorado's local jurisdictions on the importance of the energy code on life/safety rather than just an optional “nice to have.”

### Recent achievement / successes:

- We secured \$25k/year of funding for 2015 and 2016 from Xcel Energy, and developed a training and education plan for the use of those funds. The training complements funding from the Colorado Energy Office for trainings in other parts of the state. We've seen high demand for training on multifamily and commercial buildings, and trainings targeted to design professionals.
- Denver recently adopted the 2015 IECC, along with various other jurisdictions in Colorado. Denver's new code also includes a new electric vehicle-ready (EV-ready) provision, requiring pre-wiring or a conduit for electric vehicle charging in residential garages. <http://www.swenergy.org/news/regional?Year=2016#513> Click [here](#) for an article in the Denver Post.
- **Opportunity Alert!** The Colorado Energy Office and Xcel Energy (with assistance from the CO Collaborative) are hosting a series of one-hour webinars! The new “Wednesday Webinar Series” offers succinct presentations covering timely and relevant topics. While the series was designed as a lunchtime series for Colorado energy code stakeholders, all are welcome to attend, nationally – so feel free to get the word out to your collaborative. <http://www.swenergy.org/Data/Sites/1/media/events/webinars/Wednesday-Webinar-Series-Flyer-Energy-Codes-Spring-Summer-2016.pdf>

**Delaware** *Contact: Rachel Yocum, Delaware Department of Natural Resources & Environmental Control (DNREC) [rachel.yocum@state.de.us](mailto:rachel.yocum@state.de.us)*



1850 M Street NW, Suite 610 | Washington, D.C. 20036 | 202.857.0666 | [bcapcodes.org](http://bcapcodes.org)

A project of the Trust for Conservation Innovation

**Current focus:** We are beginning to review the 2015 IECC and the ASHRAE 90.1-2013 standard for potential adoption in 2017. We are also developing training opportunities on the HERS compliance option in the 2015 IECC to prepare stakeholders for the next code cycle. Finally, we are discussing the potential for a field study on implementation of the current code, which is the 2012 IECC with amendments and the ASHRAE 90.1-2010 standard.

**Needs:** We would do well to hear from other AHJ already implementing a HERS compliance path in their residential building energy codes. The good, the bad – we really need to hear honest feedback on this.

**Recent achievement / successes:** The Division of Energy and Climate recently partnered with the U.S. Department of Energy in the capacity of an Innovator in the Zero Energy Ready Homes (ZERH) program. Several project verifiers working on Delaware homes have also partnered with U.S. DOE in the ZERH program. ZERH is also being proposed in a grant program targeted to residential new construction. We consider all of this to be a success not only in energy efficiency and environmental stewardship but also in code compliance; Delaware has a statutory requirement to have 100% of residential new construction be zero energy capable by December 31, 2025.

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

**Current focus:** Adoption process for 2015 IECC.

**Needs:** Testimonials from jurisdictions who have already adopted the 2015 IECC, especially if there are any from builders, as well as any specific to air sealing and blower door testing.

**Recent achievement / successes:** A modified 2015 IECC has been proposed to the Idaho Building Code Board and is supported by building officials and other stakeholders, however builders are opposing it. A builder representative has reached out to the collaborative to form a small discussion group in the hopes of reaching a compromise. This is a very encouraging development, but is too early to know how it will work.

**KENTUCKY** *Contact: Lee Colton, Kentucky Department for Energy Development and Independence, [Lee.Colten@ky.gov](mailto:Lee.Colten@ky.gov)*

**Current focus:** The Collaborative, with support from the Kentucky Department for Energy Development and Independence (DEDI) and the Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (MEEA), are assisting the state in implementing an energy code compliance study, including three main phases: (1). Establish a statewide baseline of current code compliance; (2). Implement a training program (via Southface Institute as the trainer), including a 26-month Circuit Rider program for individual assistance to jurisdictions; and (3). Re-run the baseline study to determine level of improvement.

**Needs:** Presently the need is marketing to get greater attendance at energy codes workshops by builders and contractors. Later, efforts will work on analyzing phase 3 data to see if phase 2 activities paid off; this will allow the Collaborative to see if there is justification for funding future code compliance improvement activities.

**Recent achievement / successes:** Phase 1 data collection and report is complete. First phase of workshops is complete: analysis of HVAC sizing data; including distribution of revised training videos (see <http://energy.ky.gov/efficiency/Pages/energycodesurvey.aspx> for training schedule, videos, and other activities).

**MINNESOTA** *Contact: Alison Lindburg, Fresh Energy [Lindburg@fresh-energy.org](mailto:Lindburg@fresh-energy.org)*

**Current focus:** Six educational seminars on residential energy code compliance, including one on multifamily blower door testing, to occur in June. Also in June, we will host a webinar which might focus on residential compliance issues and multifamily blower door testing.

**Needs:** Funding for residential energy code compliance study.

**Recent achievement / successes:** Secured funding through the MN Department of Commerce for six educational seminars on residential energy code compliance.

**NEBRASKA** *Contact: Danielle Jensen, Nebraska Energy Office [danielle.jensen@nebraska.gov](mailto:danielle.jensen@nebraska.gov)*

**Current focus:** Developing a survey to gauge effects of training on best practices; continuing to seek opportunities to present “Energy Codes 101”; and forming a Codes Interpretation Committee.

**Needs:** MONEY!! And more participation from codes officials.

**Recent achievement / successes:** Held several Energy Codes 101 sessions for the public. State government passed a legislative resolution calling for a study on enforcement of all codes.

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

**Current focus:** The current focus is on energy code education. In particular we are:

- Providing 2012 IECC training in Northern Nevada in support of municipal adoptions of the 2012 IECC.
- Expanding training to rural communities to support educating the workforce on the state adopted 2012 IECC.
- Seeking continued support from utilities to purchase additional *Nevada Success with Energy Codes* guides for builders/trades and code officials.

**Needs:** (1) More *Nevada Success with Energy Codes* guides for builders/trades and code officials - for distribution at building science/energy codes training seminars. (2) Additional funding to send trainer(s) throughout the state to educate about the 2012 IECC. (3) Better attendance from building officials at quarterly meeting. (4) Additional Energy Code Ambassadors and training for the Ambassadors.

**Recent achievement / successes:** (1) We completed two energy code trainings: one each in Northern and Southern Nevada. (2) Developed *Nevada Success with Energy Code* guides, by modifying a base guide developed by Advanced Energy, and distributed approximately 175 guides in the north and south. (3) We worked with utilities to fund the purchase of the guides which were distributed at the energy code trainings.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE** *Contact: Autumn Curilla, GDS Associates [Autumn.Curilla@gdsassociates.com](mailto:Autumn.Curilla@gdsassociates.com)*

**Current focus:** To try to quantify the residential energy code compliance rate. In order to accomplish this goal, the Collaborative developed a survey for all our members. The idea is that different stakeholder groups within the Collaborative have access to different data points that may be used to develop a rough approximation of new homes that are meeting the energy code.

**Needs:** (1) Need to re-engage members and energize participation in the group. (2) More time: Time to follow up with members to get additional surveys complete and sort out the results.

**Recent achievement / successes:** Developed a brief survey that was sent to our members to: (1) Re-engage & energize participation and collect member input for the coming year, and (2) Identify data sources to help determine what the current level of compliance with energy code is within the state. (3) The Collaborative provided input into creating a statewide “Home Energy Score”, which will eventually be used by home assessors to increase a home’s appraised value.

The score can also be used to feature energy efficiency upgrades in homes for sale (helping to boost market demand for energy efficiency). A statewide rollout of the program is coming soon.

**PENNSYLVANIA** *Contact: Darren Port, Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnership [dport@neep.org](mailto:dport@neep.org)*

**Current focus:** Elevating the importance of energy code compliance to elected officials, the real estate industry, and other new audiences in following our [roadmap to 100% compliance by 2020](#).

**Needs:** Much more collaborative participation from building officials, builders, and other industry practitioners to expand the reach of the Collaborative's efforts and ensure building industry buy-in.

**Recent achievement / successes:** Finalization of [PA code compliance 101 factsheet](#) (inspired by the Nebraska Collaborative's *Energy Codes 101*) developed with elected officials in mind but general enough to be used for any audience.

**TEXAS** *Contact: Chris Herbert, South-central Partnership for Energy Efficiency as a Resource (SPEER) [cherbert@eepartnership.org](mailto:cherbert@eepartnership.org)<sup>1</sup>*

**Current focus:** The State Energy Conservation Office (SECO) is sponsoring 90 energy code trainings on the 2015 IECC/IRC and providing code books to attendees. The Collaborative is tracking the progress of local jurisdictions to adopt the 2015 code; and the Collaborative is promoting the new *2015 Energy Code Adoption Toolkit*.

**Recent achievement / successes:** SPEER developed an Energy Code Adoption Toolkit to support local governments as they move to adopt new energy codes as required by state statute. The toolkit provides the building industry with information, resources, and links to other supporting organizations.

#### **Ideas for future All-Collaboratives Bulletins?**

Contact Maria Ellingson [mellingson@bcapcodes.org](mailto:mellingson@bcapcodes.org) or (419) 724-4571

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<sup>1</sup> 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](mailto:cherbert@eepartnership.org).