

May 15, 2018

Energy Codes Compliance Collaborative

O'Fallon, IL

Meeting Notes

Agenda

1. Introductions | Overview | Meeting Goals

Larry Mensing - St. Clair County Bldg and Zoning
Christina Friederich – Greener Visions LLC (energy rater)
Julia Sander - Leidos
Rick Shilliday – Blue Sky Energy
Alison Lindburg – MEEA

Alison gave an overview of MEEA and our role in the collaborative

MEEA's role – we're here to help and learn from you. Primarily a facilitator in this process

Want meeting to be free-flowing

MEEA's meeting goals

- Knowing what baseline studies are about and what utility program goals are
- What are key areas that need attention from code compliance
- Gain commitment for future collaboratives

We're not here to talk about adoption. We are assuming code is law, and we're talking about how to comply with it. Would like to see additional **involvement from real estate sector**. Julia says that she knows someone and is going to invite them to the East Peoria meeting.

2. Ongoing compliance work in Illinois

MEEA is working with SEDAC/IL EPA to be sure we are not duplicating efforts

Alison gave an overview of the trainings, etc. offered by SEDAC

SEDAC – hotline and email address (very successful), online resources, workshops (Vandalia on Wednesday), webinars, online on-demand training modules*

Different from work DCEO was in the past

www.sedac.org/energy-code

MEEA/SEDAC have two separate funding streams to work on this

SEDAC is no longer giving out code books – can access them online

3. Results of commercial buildings retrofit survey

Send out full report with follow-up

<http://www.mwalliance.org/sites/default/files/meea-research/existing-comm-buildings-enforcement-4.11.18.pdf>

4. **Upcoming energy code improvement studies**

Illinois energy code baseline study

DOE started with sensitivity analysis – what drives energy use in homes in KY? 8 key items

Data collection in teams -they did not collect full set of data per home, so totally anonymous.

Can only visit each home once

Challenging to get homes at the right stage of construction

A Clarification – when information is collected on site, its not a yes/no compliance. They are collecting values and then determining compliance later

We need to look at performance as well

ILs programs will be different than what Kentucky identified.

IL has programs that we want to compliment and supplement; Kentucky did not.

IL Sampling Plan

- Substitutions can be made in sampling plan amongst similar jurisdictions if a home cannot be found
- 1 house on sampling plan really means 2 (one for p1 and one for p3)
- To Clarify: PNNL makes 14 sampling plans. MEEA picked one to start rather than showing the collaborative all 14
- In the next few weeks we'll submit the plan to the collaborative for review. Next meeting will review commercial. Cadmus will do data collection for the both baseline studies.

-Comments

Monroe should be a secondary county if the other two don't have available sites.

Talk with Glen Ned (Fairview) – 618-288-7502, Code Enforcement Officials of Southern Illinois

Christina - Mechanical ventilation should definitely be noted, and measured.

Caseyville – Good place to sample (St. Clair county). Mt. Vernon in Jefferson County, too.

Builders are all doing something different.

Wish there could be more samples across the entire state.

BREAK

5. **Discussion – review of items identified in past meetings**

From previous meeting in O'Fallon:

Challenges/opportunities from previous collaborative meeting:

Challenges

- Lenders don't enforce it

- Some are using the “above code” provision of Illinois state law as an interpretation that they do not need to adopt. City attorneys are saying that they do not need to according to law. City officials are saying that the code is costing them money.
- With Exelon bill they are not sure they are going to have any more programs.
- Interpreted as an unfunded mandate.
- HBA came and said that code officials that did inspections are not responsible
- Chapter 1 of every code book protects the code official, unless there is malicious intent.
- SW HBA has done trainings but only code officials attend. Can’t get builders to attend.
- RESchecks are not accurate
- Low priority in rural areas
- Builders don’t know that rating will achieve \$ returns
- Builders/contractors not required to get education

Opportunities

- On-site training: envelope sealing, duct sealing.
- Clarification from the state to local jurisdictions that they are supposed to enforce the energy code.
- Consumer/homeowner education
- Template checklist for plan review and for inspection.
- Video about the inspections
- Registry for energy professionals
- Consumer’s Union partnership, as in Michigan
- Utility money for commercials “Now I can afford those Cherrywood cabinets”
- State licensing
- Building labeling
- State-funded third party

Discussion: What are some of the challenges/opportunities that you see?

Challenges:

- Handout with each permit. Homeowner will get the permit claim “they do it themselves,” but the builder is doing it; then they act like they don’t know about the energy code.
- Building cabinets for return air
- Have to watch some contractors more than others
- Builders doing it different across counties (same builder)
- Should cost more to have different building practices
- Need to have consistent enforcement across the state
- Utility rates are similar across the state, but Ameren has low rates which is why they don’t have a new construction program
- Why aren’t builders doing it? Is it because they don’t believe in it?
- Don’t have manpower to regulate and enforce “Green stuff”
- St. Clair – contractor doesn’t do it, so it doesn’t apply (homeowner brings in application)
- Miscouta – Electric bills are off the roof; most are electric heat (good opportunity for savings with energy code)

Opportunities:

- Engage homeowners and real estate agents and appraisers
- It's on the MLS – can we get a realtor as part of it?
- Appraisal Analysis for one lender – REM Rate- get a mortgage EEM (Energy Efficient Mortgage).
- Benefits to cities to enforce code
- Have MEEA talk to CEISI about building science
- Real Estate Illinois
- Pizza and Beer for builders
- Incentives for builders
- Needs to have a positive spin
- Ameren presented at previous CEISI
- Cheapest way would be to get people in trouble for not getting the code
- Permit discounting
- Checking at occupancy – label is already available
- Realtors AND appraisers
- Customer Service as an incentive for co-ops
- Need incentives for insulation, air sealing
- Load calculations for HVAC – oversizing is a huge deal. “Bigger isn't always better” as a slogan to raise consumer awareness.
- Knowledge, Education, Repercussions
- Need to work more with the state
- Social Media – share posts about bad/good
- Need education for builders on benefits and building science
- Should utilities be putting into code compliance only?
- Yard Sign says “IECC 2018 Compliant” (when do you put it out?)
- HVAC Save for Energy Codes
- Professional Designation that can meet IL Energy Codes based on compliance
- Jurisdictional Designation that can meet IL Energy Codes based on compliance
- You're probably already doing it. Let me who you.
- Ventilation – balanced, HRV, ERV, bath. Also test rates.
- Larry has 25 builders on Linked In – ask him to connect to collaborative
- Involve Tim Schmitz – ICC (he attended Oak Park meeting)
- Try a legal approach. No one has been made an example of. There was a lawsuit in Bloomington, IL.
- Permit reduction fee to go through the rater.
- Insulation instruction – put on the website
- List of benefits, and building science

6. Discussion – Collaborative Structure

Alison – gave background on other collaboratives

Part of what we see this collaborative doing is helping make programs that may come out of our baseline study good and useful and utilized

MEEA's role is just to facilitate and learn

Once we move to phone format, we will have a more representative group

To summarize: Quarterly meetings of the collaborative together. In terms of subcommittees, potentially residential, commercial, and later renovations. Meetings will be over the phone.

7. Discussion – Involvement in Baseline Studies

How do people get involved and how can we make sure this is a success?

Recruiting buildings are the hard part and hitting them at the right time can be difficult. Helping to disseminate information – contact info for builders, etc. is helpful.

We want multiple points of contact – really helpful from people at cities, designers. And then we need builders to grant access. Would like cities to communicate with builders to talk to them about how this is a good thing for them to allow access to. Totally anonymous, etc.

8. Next steps – next meeting date

Alison – setting up 3 different regions, overall with 2 different committees, list of different opportunities, set next meeting dates. Sending sampling plan for residential for responses. MEEA will put together areas we could use more oversight in.

ADJOURN