

May 18, 2018

Energy Codes Compliance Collaborative

East Peoria, IL

Meeting Notes

Agenda

1. Introductions | Overview | Meeting Goals

Julia Sander	Leidos
Ryan Siegel	SEDAC
Sumi Han	SEDAC
Becky Holmes	City of Washington
Craig Grant	University of Illinois
Joe Craig	Ameren
Ken Woolcutt	Ameren
Anita Lichterman	Village of Winnetka
Darren Meyers	IECC-LLC
Kristine Chalifoux	University of Illinois
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 tried to invite someone 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

SEDAC gave an overview of the trainings:

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

Please share your stories with them; they want to be an information hub. They provide technical support and do help with interpretations.

Most questions are about IECC but can also do ASRAE.

Is SEDAC looking at other states? That would be case by case. ICC has an over-reaching application.

Is SEDAC and MEEA duplicating efforts? No, they are working together. MEEA and the potential upcoming utility program will be supplementing their efforts in areas where it is identified as needed.

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, it's not a yes/no compliance. They are collecting values and then determining compliance later

We need to look at performance as well

IL's 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

McLean county has a lot of building

Champaign is doing "too good"; also building in Bloomington. Definitely need to sample Bloomington/Normal area as well. Need to switch to have 2 in each county (McLean/Champaign).

There was a civil proceeding in Bloomington.

Chicago might skew the results; depends on how you do the sampling.

Peoria has a lot of development happening; more than what is happening in Tazewell. Switch numbers on Tazewell and Peoria counties.

Does Manual J include climate zone differentiation (yes).

HERS – people used to offer that for free.

Darrin - Look at 2012 and 2009 Illinois studies. Could be a reason for not getting into commercial buildings for US DOE studies. How they requested plans had an impact. The Freedom of Information Act does not allow copies – you must physically go directly to cities.

BREAK

5. Discussion – review of items identified in past meetings

From previous meeting in East Peoria:

Discussion from previous collaborative meeting:

Discussion

- Normal – the city made a decision that unless the city has formally adopted it, they cannot enforce it. So they adopt it. Normal accepts RES check or prescriptive path.
- Peoria - REScheck or COMcheck. Biggest challenge is that during the field inspection they have varied levels of compliance. Life Safety codes are more important than Energy Codes. ERI path is not being accepted by Peoria at this time but they are exploring it (does not seem to be utilized by anyone here). Peoria only accepts RES check. Does not accept ERI at this time.
- Washington – Haven't formally adopted. Don't have the time through their part-time building inspector to ensure that they get formal training and can do a thorough job. If money and training was provided, they would be happy to do it. Not accepting REScheck.
- Bloomington – Not the inspectors job to train the contractors, although they try. You can try to train the contractor but as soon as they are out the door, it's over because they hire someone else. We require REScheck and COMcheck.
- Not doing attic insulation inspections for liability issues
- RESchecks are not accurate
- Low priority in rural areas
- furnace oversizing is pretty popular.
- HVAC guy is doing it because he doesn't want callbacks
- Lack of residential and knowledge by the homebuyers; only care about safety and mold.
- Already too much regulation

Opportunities

- 3rd party enforcement – Free to AHJ
- Desire to have it implemented on a region-wide level really helps.
- Start educating youngsters at school so they go and talk to their parents.
- Level playing field needed
- PlanetClark.com

- Commissioning checklist
- Can we educate about the “why”? Debunk myths.
- Market transformation programs
- Statewide network of providers
- Incentive programs
- Rating – third party program
- Need more people on the ground to do inspections

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

Challenges:

- U of I; state buildings - Not allowed to use IECC (ASHRAE only);
- It’s difficult for existing buildings. They are doing the best buildings they can. It’s easier to do windows than roof – pick your battles.
- Pushback on receptacles
- Controls on the lighting should be part of it, but with U of I they don’t always do it. Just replace 1 to 1.
- Don’t have the time to do the energy code.
- Scott Wolf; Washington – Does accept REScheck. Now using inspector from Tazewell county. More plan reviews and continuity. Now requiring it. COMcheck.
- Continuing Insulation
- Builders don’t know how to talk about benefits of building science; they will talk the homebuyer out of efficiency measures when they could be talking about level of comfort
- How do you market EE?

Opportunities:

- ICC Preferred Provider – through Code Officials Associations PPN
- Held a training by an actual homebuilder – and it actually worked!
- Need someone good at presenting information
- Incentives needed to help the contractors; keep them in business
- Younger buyers are more concerned about air quality
- IL Weatherization Assistance Program – SAG meeting
- Bonnie – Peoria (real estate?)
- Homebuilders – SW and North; Champaign Urbana has only 20 builders in their HBA; many builders are not part of any HBA
- Talk with commercial realtors too
- Information on how to spot things on REScheck and COMcheck

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.

- Invite everyone from Collaborative to February MEEA's annual MES meeting.
- Skype meetings are like herding cats. Maybe webinar style
- Champaign could be a meeting.
- Technical training lead being a host

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.

- Flow hood testing – are we looking at rate of flow? We should.
- What is the checklist on commercial? (will be shared soon)

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.

Who else might need to be participating? What would you like to see covered at the next meeting?
What did we miss?

- IL Protection Officials are having a meeting on June 6th in Peoria.

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