

Ameren Missouri Energy Codes Compliance Collaborative

Residential Energy Code Support Program

September 17, 2020

Attendees:

- Nicole Westfall – MEEA
- Chris Burgess - MEEA
- Crystal Egelkamp - MEEA
- Natalia Gardocki - MEEA
- *Matt Belcher* - Verdatek Solutions
- *Jeff Friedrich* - Ameren, MO
- *Kimberly Petzing* – Franklin Energy, MO
- *Lisa Kremer* – MO Division of Energy
- *Martin Hyman* - MO Division of Energy
- *Milton J Murry* - AIA Codes committee, semi-retired
- *Phil Fingerhut* – St. Louis (invited by Matt)
- *Mollie Olson* – ECOcentrix Consultants, HERS raters
- *Rudy Beuc* – AIA Codes committee, ICC development committees, architect in St. Louis

Agenda

1. Introduction
2. Codes Program Update
3. Real Estate Program Update
4. Revisit Covid impacts
5. Next steps for Collaborative

Energy Code Support Program Update

- Energy Code Consultant update – Matt Belcher:
 - In person meetings have resumed with social distancing protocols
 - Shortage of housing materials
 - Homebuilding/construction/remodeling projects are still moving forward
 - St. Louis county moved to the 2018 IECC residential (July 1st), with small amendments
 - Formerly on the 2009 with heavy amendments
 - Major focus is on air tightness and testing– ventilation has become critically important
 - Builders are concerned with buildings becoming ‘too tight’
 - Upcoming webinar this Tuesday – address current issues
 - addressing the effect of tightening buildings, effect on liability issues for builders and moisture management
 - Flashing applied improperly and can create moisture problems
 - Will also go into building science on new construction and remodeling
 - Mollie: the hardest thing they’re finding is that no one knows what the new code means, the testing is an afterthought
 - Need to figure out a way for people to understand earlier on in the project
 - “Easier to do at the conference table than at the closing”
 - Any changes in HVAC sizing with new code?
 - Yes, oversizing was a problem – it’s in mechanical code not energy code (parameters only)
 - Now that envelope is tighter, and systems have already been oversized, it can create bigger problems
 - There is cost savings for builders with smaller systems
 - Have 2 different reviews- mechanical and energy code – usually have 2 different results

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- Mollie would be interested in 1-page HVAC review – need to get HVAC companies to understand proper sizing
 - Matt and Mollie will collaborate with outreach to HVAC companies
- **Trainings**
 - Held in 3 in-person trainings
 - January: St. Louis, Jefferson City
 - A systems approach to higher performing homes
 - February: St. Louis
 - 70 people trained in 2020 so far
 - Upcoming trainings will be held virtually
 - October 27-29: Building Science Principles
 - “pre-requisite” for other trainings, published online for on-demand viewing
 - Nov 10: A systems approach to higher performing homes
 - Nov 17: Improving Efficiency Comfort and Health in Existing Homes
 - Registration information to follow
 - **Topics to see in the 2021 trainings?** Let us know your thoughts!
- **Possible future One-pager topics:**
 - Upcoming factsheets: HVAC sizing, basement insulation, duct sealing
 - Other topics?
 - Diagnostic testing?
 - when duct leakage testing is required
 - some of that testing can be done before drywall, which can help
 - asking for trouble when testing after the building is completed
 - *Rudy* - Walls are getting thicker due to green building
 - *Information on best practices for Flashing*

Real Estate Program Update

- Held trainings
 - Green Designation Course– August 6th and 7th
 - 54 Realtors in attendance
 - 3-Hour Energy Efficiency Course “Stand Out From the Crowd: High Performing Homes”
 - August 13th – 13 Realtors in attendance
 - August 26th – 23 Realtors in attendance
- Upcoming trainings (all virtual):
 - Green Designation with Columbia Board of Realtors – October 13th and 14th
 - Free Appraiser Webinar: Missouri Energy Efficient Homes Revealed – October 22nd
- Homeowner Welcome Kit
 - For new home buyers – overview of energy audits
 - \$200 Energy Audit Coupon
- Home Self-Assessment Tool
 - Worksheet designed to be completed by the homeowner to learn more about energy use in their home
 - Ameren MO is offering a \$50 incentive to all residential customers who complete the self-assessment
- Email Natalia Gardocki at Ngardocki@mwalliance.org with any questions/interest in this program,

COVID 19 impacts

- How have things changes in the last 3-4 months?
- What has been going on in your field since this group last met?

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- Are new energy code compliance issues emerging that previously were not an issue?
- How can the Collaborative support code compliance during Covid 19?
- *Martin* – weatherization crews still have to go out into the field, MO DE is involved with some economic recovery efforts
- *Phil* – new construction – single-family – 1 or 2 tradespersons go into a house at a time
 - Availability of materials is impacting people heavily
 - Non-energy issue: reorganizing shipment of materials as states shut down
 - Works with Mollie and it's been very helpful
- How has the new code impact the affordable housing space?
 - They already have overlays on them for green building
 - Some things will be impacted at plan review, but a fair amount they have already been doing
 - MSHDC – funding used only requires you to follow an older standard (2012) – doesn't require blower door
 - Developers will be forced to go a more stringent route – NHDC does not want to pay for it
- Has construction slowed down at all?
 - *Mollie* – no, timeline and schedules have been spread out more, material delivery takes a bit longer, but no real impacts and getting busier

Next steps for Collaborative

- MEEA will send out survey to determine what Collaborative would like to focus on in the coming year. Will discuss results of survey at the next meeting.

Next meeting: Tentatively December 1, 2020 , 10 am- 12 pm – Virtual