

Ameren Missouri Residential Energy Codes Compliance Collaborative

February 11, 2021 from 9am – 12pm CST

Attendance (18)

Meeting Minutes

Name	Organization
Nicole Westfall	MEEA
Crystal Egelkamp	MEEA
Molly Graham	MEEA
Richard Reilly	Earthways Center, St. Louis Botanical Garden
Emily Andrews	USGBC - Missouri Gateway Chapter
Shane Lovett	City of University City
Jeff Friedrich	Ameren
John Davis	PSD
Jordan Elliot	MO Division of Energy
Kevin Lohbeck	City of University City
Jeff Bextermueller	City of University City
Matt Belcher	Verdatek Solutions
Nick Spicer	EDCS
Paul Englert	Spire
Gretchen Waddell Barwick	Sierra Club
Phillip Akin	Department of Natural Resources DE
Jordan Hull	MO PSC
Travis Wood	Missouri Energy Initiative

I. Real Estate Program Update – Molly Graham, MEEA Programs Director

- Real Estate Energy Audit Program - Goal: train professionals in the real estate industry on energy efficiency and on Ameren offerings
- Offer trainings for realtors and appraisers
- Upcoming courses (all virtual):
 - Green Designation (2 full days, 6 CEUs)
 - Stand out from the crowd: High Performing Homes (3 hours, 3 CEUs)
 - Green Appraisal course or webinar
- Homeowner Welcome Kit (Can only take place in unoccupied information)
 - For new home buyers, includes:
 - Benefits of energy audit
 - List of certified auditors
 - \$200 home energy audit coupon
- Homeowner Self-assessment Program
 - Homeowners and renters learn how to assess their home to learn more about energy use and possible areas for improvement → for any Ameren customer
 - Ameren MO is offering a \$50 incentive to all residential customers who complete the self-assessment
 - Homeowner receives a tailored list of recommendations based on responses
 - how much does a home energy audit cost total generally?
 - They are typically a few hundred to several hundred dollars depending on the size of home and number of HVAC units, etc.
 - This is a super easy way to earn an Ameren incentive
 - **Check out the website (<https://www.amerenmissourisavings.com/realestate>) or email realestateaudits@mwalliance.org for more information**
 - This will end at the end of the year, so please spread the word!

II. Code Support Program Update from Matt Belcher & Nicole Westfall



Ameren Missouri Residential Energy Codes Compliance Collaborative

February 11, 2021 from 9am – 12pm CST

- Overview of the program: 3 main components to this program:
 - Classroom virtual training
 - Code consultant
 - Compliance collaborative
- In person meetings have resumed, but most engagement still remains virtual
 - Delivered socially distant training to Payne Family homes on Feb 4th
 - 104 people engaged in 2021
- Other cities are beginning to update their codes and are beginning to reach out for possible trainings
- Is there a theme from the questions that attendees ask in these trainings?
 - Builders are hesitant to change, but still need help focusing on performance testing (blower door) and understanding how to incorporate these things into their building routine
 - Hesitant to increase building costs and thinking about how the new codes will impact their jobs and business
- Have things changed over the past 3 years of this program?
 - The first part of the program focused on outreach and getting people to know us, and now people are more willing to learn.
 - Set up lines of communication through this program so more people are reaching out
- Local ICC AIA chapter – sponsoring a training on Feb 17th: 12pm – 1pm via Zoom
 - **Register:** <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUqc-aggjMrH9Hq4iUgWQ-AzOn5Xukau5Zp>

III. Code Support Trainings:

- Held three in-person trainings throughout the territory and three virtual trainings in the fall
- Slides are available online
- ~20 participants per training, average rating 9.2/10
- Feedback:
 - Hard to attend fall trainings due to the events getting rescheduled
 - Shorter trainings are easier to attend
 - Hoping to attend a 200-level training or learn more advanced topics
- Upcoming Trainings:
 - **February 23 (10am -12pm) – The Impact of the Energy Code on Existing Homes**
 - **Register:** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-impact-of-the-energy-code-on-existing-homes-virtual-tickets-138534405135>
 - **February 25 (10am – 12pm) - New Energy Codes and High Performance Homes**
 - **Register:** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/new-energy-codes-and-high-performance-homes-virtual-tickets-138535590681?aff=erelpanelorg>
- Discussion: Deep Dive Topics for Trainings
 - What topics would people be interested in seeing in 2021?
 - These will be shorter trainings and super focused on an issue
 - Thursday March 25th 10 am -12 pm– spray foam insulation
 - Registration coming soon
 - Any other topics?
 - Indoor air quality and ventilation seems to be really important with COVID
 - Mold and moisture control
 - BPI Healthy Homes Principles introduction
 - Seeing this more in many programs, healthy homes and energy efficiency
 - EnergyStar Home Performance Indoor Air Package

Ameren Missouri Residential Energy Codes Compliance Collaborative

February 11, 2021 from 9am – 12pm CST

- Manual J and right-sizing (2 hours)

IV. Remote Virtual Inspections (RVI) and Off-site Construction Survey – Crystal Egelkamp, MEEA

- MEEA, in collaboration with our sister REEO NEEP, is examining the barriers to single-family prefabricated construction in the Northeast and Midwest regions
 - 3-year program funded by DOE; first budget period will focus on research, and the second on providing technical resources
 - Our preliminary data shows that although prefab has increased in the past two decades, it is not as high in the single-family market
- Currently collaborating with ICC on a survey effort distribution to jurisdictions, contractors and manufacturers
 - Survey goals: Assess current use of RVI in the US and understand the barriers and opportunities of this resource and develop educational and technical resources for off-site construction
 - Survey will go live first week of March
- **Contact Crystal Egelkamp (cegelkamp@mwalliance.org) if you would like to participate in the survey or know of any people or organizations working on remote inspections in the Midwest that should take the survey**

V. Discussion: Existing Buildings

1. When does the energy code apply to existing buildings?
 - Chapter 5 of the Energy code
 - Becomes a code issue when there's a 50% modification to a building (residential or commercial), or an addition/rehab
 - In this circumstance must bring the whole building up to code
2. What are the major challenges with improving energy efficiency in existing buildings?
 - Marketing & Education are important – it can be confusing understanding how to apply the energy code
 - Needed on homeowner and contractor side
 - Spread awareness of LIHEAP and weatherization programs because there is usually money leftover that people don't know they're eligible for
 - Money is an issue – people will upgrade 40% of their homes instead of 50% to avoid the costs of bringing it up to meet the energy code
 - There is more being done to low-income communities with weatherization programs
 - Some folks are not aware of these opportunities - can be an area where we can collaborate to distribute information
 - Need local opportunities (tax rebates or grants) that the cities can offer?
 - Intrusion issue – insulation and ductwork – hard to get to in existing homes
 - Is it worth the disruption and the money?
 - Most home improvement projects focus on the same thing as new homes (granite countertops) rather than the behind the wall stuff
 - Not many people advertise that they do this work
 - EnergyStar list of auditors doesn't overlap with many people in MO
 - Not a centralized information to find people who do this work
 - People want to be told what to do
 - Without a quality energy audit and assessment – people won't know what needs to be replaced/done to maximize energy and cost savings
 - People who are certified auditors are a mixed bag in MO – there aren't utility incentives to audits and upgrades

Ameren Missouri Residential Energy Codes Compliance Collaborative

February 11, 2021 from 9am – 12pm CST

- Most business models aren't able to make it happen

HVAC sizing is a topic in Boone county – considering updating their codes

- MO suburbs don't have strict energy codes
 - They're not opposed to the manual J
 - admin assistant in Boone reviews the Manual J instead of code officials – assistant is at capacity
 - Columbia is sold on Manual J
3. What opportunities are there to work on existing buildings in MO?
 - What are the issues that need to be addressed first?
 4. What resources/education materials/training topics/etc. can the Collaborative provide to support work on existing buildings?
 - Richard will be happy to share materials to his contractor network (400-500 people)

VI. Next Meeting: May 18th, 2021 (tentative)