May 2018

Energy Codes Compliance Collaborative

Suggestion Cards

**Issues**

* Sustainable program funding sources for more than 3 years; more than 5 years
* Redundant/multiple providers of Technical interpretations, Circuit ridership, 3rd parties, Training Outlets
* Lack of knowledge base for code officials to interpret energy codes; would help to build consistency
* Contractor resistance
* Having 2 codes to choose from (IECC vs ASHRAE); creates confusion, hard to keep up on changes and differences, similar to when we had 3 life safety codes
* Making energy efficiency cost-effective
* Need more focus on commercial
* Lack of consistent enforcement from town to town
* Lack of understanding by homeowners why they have to comply and adds cost
* Need training opportunities (preferred providers)
* Incentives need to encourage compliance
* Focusing on issues/concerns rather than solutions
* Lack of knowledge
* Lack of consistency
* AHJ’s taking energy more seriously
* Utilities not being as transparent
* More builders need to be involved
* More manufacturers should be involved
* Enforcement from jurisdiction to jurisdiction, especially when next to each other
* Lack of consistent enforcement
* Ventilation
* Lack of knowledge amongst buyers and builders
* Non-compliance with ventilation requirements
* Stop amending the model code without good reason – IL Code Advisory Council seems to conjecture about reasons to amend code to make less stringent (such as ACH50); Amended codes are messy, require specifically tailored software compliance checks, and confuse building officials
* Make IL Code Advisory Council more representative. There are no raters or energy efficiency policy advocates on advisory council
* Focus on mechanical ventilation; often not in compliance

**Opportunities**

* For the collaborative to have a formal membership (less informal) with regular and representative of various stakeholders (also a danger of being exclusive). Include Raters, HVAC contractors, builders, Passive House representatives.
* Have builders teaching classes on energy code
* Find a homebuilder as an advocate to teach and sell to other HBA’s and homeowners
* Reach out to the ICC chapters – IPOC, NWBO, SBO, ICCA with training on energy code challenges (existing commercial, etc.)
* Work on more ICC energy code commentary
* Keep up the marketing to potential homebuyers
* Make energy savings statistics more easily understood and their source more transparent to your audience.
* Continuing to increase training and awareness
* Increase enforcement
* Get realtors on board. They most only understand granite vs quartz. They could drive demand.
* Passive House-potential to eliminate or reduce need for heating and cooling system along with improved load profile, no know by potential building owners to even ask for it
* Separate meetings – Residential/Commercial
* Provide education for both contractors and homebuyers - Pamphlets/online
* Since no code books are being distributed either MEEA distributes with utility funding or produces Resource Guides/Laminate “cheat sheets”
* Definitely a need for distributed literature on common areas of non-compliance – pictures: Yes/No
* Pamphlet like “consumers rights” for homeowners; create some for contractors
* Utility company incentives – currently available, what can be done better, especially to bring existing buildings into compliance
* Funding help
* Interpretation document (good idea) – like Minnesota
* Permit discount for using a Rater
* Education/pamphlets/FB page that can be informative
* MEEA head speaker at CEOSI
* EEM – Energy Efficient Mortgage
* Education of stakeholders – primarily homebuyers and realtors/lenders
* Checklists
* Incentives
* Appraisers, real estate, lenders involved
* Energy Efficient Mortgages
* NYSERDA Decision Maker Training on importance of energy codes
* Duct and envelope training for air leakage and duct leakage training
* Consider circuit rider
* Leverage HERS Raters and Providers as code ambassadors. They are highly knowledgeable and, if given the right tools, can help to convey the information locally.
* Emphasize compliance options; giving options encourages compliance vs strict emphasis on prescriptive path
* Leverage RESNET data to make meta-assessments of opportunities for improving compliance
* Work with ICC + RESNET on improving 3rd Party Compliance

-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**

Challenges/opportunities from previous collaborative meeting:

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1. **Discussion – review of items identified in past meetings**From previous meeting in O’Fallon:

**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