

**Minnesota Energy Code Compliance Collaborative**  
**September 23, 2016 | 8:30am – noon CDT**  
**Blaine City Hall, 10801 Town Square Dr NE, Blaine, MN 55449**

\*\*\* MEETING NOTES \*\*\*

**Residential Education and Training needs discussion**

- The most prevalent future topic in the residential sector is HRVs/ERVs and how they relate to the balanced ventilation requirement.
- The sense is that 95-98% of Minnesota is installing HRVs or ERVs, but not necessarily with the correct dampers.
- There is a lack of understanding of performance and documentation and if it meets the code “balanced” requirements
- Consumer education needs as well as for mechanical contractors code officials and builders.
- Training could cover set up and performance
- Dampers are required but not utilized
- Lack of consistency with code officials requiring testing some allowing delays, inconsistency both in rural areas and in the metro
- The League of Minnesota Cities should be in the Collaborative
- Lack of importance with the energy portion of the code.
- Could common practices be rewritten to be marketed? To homeowners, for example.
- Part of the issue is that builders haven’t experienced any pain related to not meeting energy code
  - No major problems identified yet or lawsuits filed
- Should there be required energy code hours in the 1301 rule for licensing?
- Marketing for
  - Consumer /homeowner
  - Builders/contractors
- Value – Homeowner guide template?
  - “Ask your homebuilder for the Homeowner guide”
    - Parade of Homes, BATC
- BAM used to have a document and quarterly email, revisit?
- Code official enforcement drives participation and training
- No licensing required for mechanical contractors – industry will have to ask for it (must be bonded)
  - Health and safety, edge in marketplace
  - We don’t even know how many mechanical contractors there are in the state (≈600 in Xcel’s contractor list)
  - Would have to be less restrictive than bill introduced last session
  - Or have a utility requirement to be on contractor list
- Collaborative discussion on CERTs plans for an auditor database
  - No subscription, outstate option for finding professionals to conduct blower door testing outstate
- Another topic for training is blower door for Multifamily and townhouses,
  - Same topics for builders, how to meet code, include plans and spec book
- Stress the importance of a blower door test for “health and safety”
- Documentation for testing-template requirement? (should be required)
- Remodeling – what to do when testing and sizing water heaters (danger)

Events to Share these Ideas:

- [BATC Training](#) October 25<sup>th</sup>
- [Rochester BA Winter Training](#)
  - January Code Officials course
  - February Expo
- [Duluth Energy Expo](#) February 20–22, 2017

Ideas for future residential training

- ERV/HRV training for HVAC contractors, builders, and homeowners
- Additional blower door training and duct blaster training
- Code official training
- Possibility of certification for HVAC contractors

## **Commercial Energy Code Compliance**

### Commercial Energy Code Pilot Research

Megan Hoyer and Russ Landry from Center for Energy and the Environment presented their primary results on their CARD Grant project on how code compliance. Their goal is to set a precedent for a CIP funded code compliance program.

### Issues in Commercial Buildings Discussion

- Many code officials retiring
- More MEP equipment getting code compliance labels
- Yes, No, NA for projects → part of permitting process
  - Huge potential impact
  - Can help building collaboration across trades
  - Need to maintain 6 year cycle
- DLI could help facilitate these conversations and has offered their office to host

### **Issues in Multifamily Buildings Discussion - Form a Committee-yes**

- 3 story apartment – not applying for permit for residential (no testing requirement) – these have to meet Energy Star (MHFA), not meeting mechanical – (balanced ventilation)
- Changing common conditioned space – definition?
- Blower Door: how-to and definition – unit or whole building - Energy Star is by unit
- Affordable housing doesn't have the resources to do balanced testing
- Following previous practices on the ground (architects and designers)
- Preconstruction meetings have value
  - Needs to be before the bid
- DLI Letter for RZ's and balanced ventilation
- Training through the multifamily housing partners

### **Collaborative Priorities discussion and planning**

- Meeting again – more than once a year?
  - Quarterly?
  - In time for education submittals
- Meetings on website calendar
  - Get on code officials calendars
  - Identify website needs in subcommittee
- More builders contractors, officials
  - League on MN Cities and Counties
  - General contractor groups , USGBC, AIA, BAs (HBAs)
- Higher Education for code officials
  - Create a certificate like Inver Hills?
  - Code officials are retiring
  - Funding?
  - Undervalued
- Template PowerPoint for Collaborative sponsors etc.

### **Next Steps:**

- Post meeting minutes on website
- Invite Sarah from CERTS to talk with the Collaborative/MBPA members about energy auditor finding tool; set up meeting
- Email Collaborative members about joining subcommittees
- Subcommittees will determine their areas of focus using ideas from this meeting as a starting point:
- Megan Hoyer will reach out to Commercial Subcommittee members
- Ben Rabe will reach out to Multifamily Subcommittee members
- Ben Rabe will reach out to Residential Education/Training Subcommittee, and invite Tom Gavaras from BATC to participate

- Tim Manz will reach out to Interpretation/Verification Subcommittee about HRV/ERV issues (not necessarily training) also include Multifamily “definition” in this discussion
- Ben Rabe will contact League of Minnesota Cities to participate in the Collaborative (unless someone else has a contact and would like to do it)
- Set up next Collaborative meeting for three months from now (beginning quarterly Collaborative meetings)

### Meeting Participants

<i>Name</i>	<i>Organization</i>
Ben Rabe	Fresh Energy
Alison Lindberg	MEEA
Greg Ernst	Ernst & Associates
Greg Olson	Xcel Energy
Rebecca Olson	NEC
Paul Morin	TEC
Alan Christianson	Red Door Energy Auditing
Ed VonThoma	Building Knowledge
Anthony Fryer	Dept. of Commerce
Russ Landry	CEE
Kevin Brauer	Home Performance Strategies
Laura Milberg	MPCA
James Hunter	Hoffman Weber Construction
Mike Resech	RSR
Phil Dahlheimer	St. Francis
Don Sivigny	Department of Labor and Industry
Joe Schreder	Solid Gold
Megan Hoyer	CEE
Ross Anderson	NEC

### Codes Collaborative Subcommittees

<b>Residential Education-Training Subcommittee</b>		
<i>Name</i>	<i>Organization</i>	<i>Email</i>
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<b>MultiFamily Subcommittee</b>		
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