Introductions (see participants below)

Issue Discussion

- The code change in whether multifamily buildings fit the commercial or residential building code is the primary point of confusion for all parties – including code officials.
- Ventilation: Mechanical vs natural exhaust – Exhaust only ventilation is disappearing, no correct method for doing it, some builder doing it anyway.
- Blower door testing - mostly testing induction units, needed for Energy Star rating
- Dryer and kitchen exhaust/make up air - Does individual unit exhaust ventilation “kill the efficiency” of buildings?
- There’s a value in having a performance and prescriptive. Smaller builders want to be told “how to build it.”
- Multifamily buildings with >3 stories will usually take the performance route. With more expensive, larger buildings, the cost of the energy study is minor.
- Multifamily housing is “orphaned”- neither the residential or commercial code directly addresses these buildings
- Talk on the national level about adding a multifamily code. This would also have cons because it would be more for builders to keep track of.
- A state in the SW is developing a guide to help code officials
- **Decision:** Develop a Multifamily Guide focusing on best practices. This would be an educational resource for code officials, builders and contractors. The first focus will a guide for best practices for multifamily buildings that fit under the residential code – <3 stories (Ben Rabe will further flush out this definition).
- We need more code officials, general contractors and architects to develop this common practices guide

Best Practice topics:

- How to properly ventilate multifamily buildings
- How should blower door and duct testing be done for these buildings
- How can HVAC systems meet the correct code

Next Steps:

- Define what multifamily housing that fits within the residential energy code (Ben Rabe will get a working definition out the group before the next meeting)
- Recruit additional stakeholders to weigh in the multifamily housing including architects, general contractors, code officials (please send folks my way)
- Schedule next meeting for late November

Attendees:
- Ben Rabe, Fresh Energy
- Greg Ernst, Ernst & Associates
- Rebecca Olson, NEC
- Ed VonThoma, Building Knowledge
- Steve Kovalik, Opus Group
- Kyle Sytsma, Major Mechanical, Inc
- Russ Landry, CEE
- Alison Lindberg (call in), MEEA
- Don Sivigny (call in), Department of Labor and Industry