

Minnesota Energy Codes Compliance Collaborative
Residential Subcommittee - Notes
Builders Association of the Twin Cities -2960 Centre Pointe Dr. St Paul, MN 55113
November 21, 2016 | 1-3 pm

I. Introductions

II. Updates

Contractor University at BATC – Tom Gavaras
Duluth Energy Expo – Paul Morin

III. Issue Discussion

Balanced Ventilation

- The sizing of HRV/ERVs is in the code book and sizing doesn't seem to be an issue.
- HRVs provide can provide continuous ventilation and the remainder to meet the total ventilation requirements can be filled with bath and kitchen exhaust fans
- In the code, we have the potential to over ventilate – tight houses don't need large fans
- Conversations at the national level might solve this issue by requiring HRV/ERVs in our climate zones
- Humidifiers on furnace can balance out ventilation
- Over 30 cfm fan needs to be verified
 - How is verification happening?
- Mechanical contractors need training? – no certifications or CEUs
- Over 18,000 mechanical contractors in the state
- DLI/BAM checklist from DLI
- Duluth Conference - early Monday session – could this be a way to reach contractor working in MN Power territory?
- Could we work with other utilities to train contractors to be on their list? (CenterPoint and Xcel)
- Three pronged problem: education, installation & verification
- Builders are banking on lack of enforcement
- Code officials are letting builders off, risk is getting passed on to the homeowners
- Does MEEA have material to give to city code departments?

Dampers – Mike Wilson

- The array of issues related to not having proper dampers on HRVs
- Lots of HRV installers in the state
- Dampers mentioned 3 times in the codes, but not being enforced
- Do we need interpretation related to dampers? – photos?

IV. Next Steps

- Continue to reach out the League of MN Cities/Counties – Ben Rabe
- Draft a “common practices” on continuous and intermittent ventilation to meet total ventilation requirement - Tim Manz and Pat Huelman
- Mike Wilson will continue to develop his damper spreadsheet and share with the group (please do not share externally)
- Schedule next meeting for January

Attendees:

Tom Gavaras, BATC

Ben Rabe, Fresh Energy
Tim Manz, City of Blaine
Paul Morin, The Energy Conservatory
Kevin Brauer, Home Performance Strategies
Don Sivigny, Department of Labor and Industry
Pat Huelman, UMN Center for Sustainable Building Research
Joe Scharrer, City of Minneapolis
Mike Wilson, Dakota Supply Group
Jon Knudson, City of St Paul
Ross Anderson, The Energy Network