Minnesota Energy Codes Collaborative | Commercial Committee

This is a running document of our committee meeting agendas & notes (newest meeting content at the top). Members of the committee, feel free to add comments to outside of meetings to help prompt future discussion.

Meeting 1 Agenda
- Introductions
- Common committee goal
- Discussion
  1. What interests us most regarding commercial energy code compliance
  2. Biggest opportunities and barriers
  3. First targets for improvement
  4. Clear action by MECCC or partners
  5. Next meeting topics

MEETING 1 NOTES | January 25, 2017:

Our Proposed Goal (up for discussion): to improve energy code compliance in Minnesota’s commercial buildings.
- It is great to have a resource for best practices, but how do we disseminate it and get people to know it and know where to find that information
  - We should be thinking about audience
  - We should thinking about how to make information accessible & able to impact the most people
  - Make the tools easy to use and understand
- Help link to other networks (e.g. AIA codes committee)
  - AIA Building Code Committee Co-chairs for 2017: Steve Kovalik and Jeff Walz
- Lack of standardization in lighting industry and findinoduct that we will be able to maintain (example)
  - Get the word out to user groups
  - Lots of complaints from occupants

- Buckets of Goals:
  - Education & Dissemination… and tools (maybe a separate bucket)
  - Programs & Initiatives
- As a group we will probably have two tracks of conversations going on: the overarching direction of what we should focus on and then at times the more focused and frequent meetings around tools, initiatives, education, etc.

Discussion:
1. What interests us most regarding commercial energy code compliance
   - Lighting design (e.g. overlit spaces)
   - Lack of integration of design group (different teams going after different compliance paths - not coordinated)
- Commissioning needs more weight: needs to be done well but better continuity between design team & facilities staff; often fast timelines of getting moved into county buildings
- Review from cities aren’t used to looking at mechanical and electrical plans
- Performance based projects can’t get meaningful reviews from the cities
- Documentation is not detailed enough to lead to compliant design/construction
- Lack of best practices in documentation and lack of templates
- Gap in “who” is responsible for inspecting the lighting & electrical portions of the energy code
- Lack of understanding the watts to lumens translation (e.g. overlit spaces)
- Contractors knowing the energy code not just the NEC, for instance
- Helping owners know what to expect (interested to follow up on this)*
- Code officials rely too much on the signatures of licensed professionals
- Two energy codes are confusing; can we get to one (ASHRAE); *Did other states see a long period of acclimation
- Continuous insulation is NOT essential, it is one path of compliance; building science behind this (e.g. dew point)
- How the code collaborative views it roll? (L. Milberg); Stretch codes, resilience, etc.
- Consistency across cities of enforcement (e.g. if one code official puts too much red tape on a project, she will get in trouble)
- How technologies are changing faster than the code *compliance technologies, verification technologies, design & modeling technologies, capital technologies (e.g. photographic verification)

What are our Priorities?
- 2018 Next code and committees will start to meet next year -- could help future compliance by looking at fewer paths for compliance
- Megan will look at and send out a survey and/or a proposed list of priorities that could point to early wins & priorities that will keep all or most of the committee engaged

Next Steps:
- Prioritize a few early wins and have next meeting on barriers and opportunities specific for these & next steps
- Next meeting likely at CEE, but some other central locations should be considered (in person is good, but keep the phone option)
- Next meeting 4-5 weeks out; 90 min meeting