

Minnesota Energy Code Compliance Collaborative

January 19, 2017 | 1-4pm

Blaine City Hall – Cloverleaf Farm Room

10801 Town Square Dr. NE, Blaine, MN 55449

*** MEETING NOTES ***

1. Introductions

2. Code Adoption

- Brief summary of adoption process | *Don Sivigny and Tim Manz, Dept. of Labor and Industry* (call-in)

After first full group meeting on January 12, individual technical advisory group (TAG) meetings for each construction code began last week. The Energy Code TAG will tackle both commercial and residential codes. This group will meet as late as this March of this year to finalize their recommendations to the Construction Codes Advisory Council (CCAC), based on the IECC 2018 model code. Next, the (CCAC) will send a final draft of each code to the Commissioner for DLI for approval. The new building code is expected to take effect March 2020.

3. Guidance document draft presentations and discussion

- Continuous vs. intermittent ventilation guide | *Mike Wilson, Dakota Supply Group*

Mike Wilson and Tim Manz put together a proposed interpretation on intermittent ventilation in the residential energy code section R403.5.5. The aimed to give clarity to the question: Can certain exhaust fans that are being used as intermittent ventilation according to Section R403.5.4 of 2015 Minnesota Residential Energy Code (MREC) also be used as a ventilation component to comply with Section R403.5.2 of the MREC? The answer itself is in the energy code using the exception in Section R403.5.5, if a balanced heat recovery ventilation (HRV) system or energy recovery ventilation (ERV) system is installed to meet the continuous ventilation rate of Section R403.5.3, as long as the requirements in Table R403.5.1 and Section R403.5.5 are satisfied. Table R403.5.1 requires minimum fan efficacies and Section R403.5.5 requires surface mounted fans to have a maximum 1.0 sone rating according to HVI Standard 915. In addition, the airflow verification requirements of Section R403.5.6.1.3 shall be met.

- Commercial walk-through guide (in process) | *Megan Hoye, CEE*

The commercial committee has taken a strategic approach to prioritizing items on which to discuss and provide clarity, within the commercial energy code. The first steps was to brainstorm possible issues that group could potentially take on. Next, the group members all took a survey to prioritize these issues. From there, the committee was split into subgroups to capitalize on different members' areas of expertise. At this point the committee has focused its efforts on two items: when does the energy code "kick in" for renovations (see discussion below) and

generating a tool to guide architects, engineers and code officials to help navigate the both the ASHRAE and IECC code options.

4. “When does the code kick in for commercial renovations?” Discussion

There has not been consistent answer to when the energy code would take effect for commercial renovations that involve a change in occupancy. This could be turning office cubicles into conference spaces or vice versa. Hennepin County has had difficulties getting projects approved because their consultants are estimating high costs of bringing an entire space up to the code, even for proposed energy efficiency projects. Bringing the space fully up to code increases the payback beyond what the county will approve. Don Sivigny at the Department of Labor and Industry has stated in the past that if the overall energy usage for that space does not increase, the energy code would not kick in. However, this is not explicitly stated in the code or elsewhere. Therefore, outside consultants have erred on the conservative side. Alison Lindburg at MEEA is organizing a call for interested discussing this topic nation-wide.

5. Next Steps

The group agrees that discussing specific items and drafting documents in the subcommittees, and then bringing recommendations to the full group has been an effective strategy.

Attendees:

Bruce Nelson - retired (DER)

Sara Curlee- BWBR

Rachel Spires - BWBR

Greg Ernst - G. H. Ernst and Associates

Megan Hoye - CEE

Russ Landry - CEE

Ed VonThoma - Building Knowledge

Anthony Fryer - Dept. of Commerce

Dori Dufresne - City of St. Paul

Kevin Brauer - Home Performance

Strategies

Alan Christenson - Red Door Energy

Auditing

Jeff Boumeester- Graybar

Nick Erickson - Housing First Minnesota

Mike Wilson – Dakota Supply Group

Leah Hiniker - Hennepin County

Alison Lindburg - MEEA

Joe Scharrer - City of Minneapolis

Ben Rabe - Fresh Energy

Call-in

Tim Manz - Dept. of Labor and Industry

Laura Millberg - MPCA

Gerhard Guth - HGA

Don Sivigny - Dept. of Labor and Industry