

Michigan Energy Code Compliance Collaborative

*** MINUTES ***

Location: Virtual – Microsoft Teams Meeting

Date: June 17, 2021

Time: 3:00pm – 4:00pm EDT

Facilitator for Meeting: Jake Wilkinson, Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE)

Attendees

Ed Carley, National Association of State Energy Officials

Eric DeVries, E3M Solutions

John Dulmes, Michigan Chemistry Council

Dan Dundas, Michigan Electric & Gas Association

David Gard, Michigan Energy Efficiency Contractors Association

Chris McTaggart, Building Efficiency Resources

Tim Mrozowski, Michigan State University

Sonya Pouncy, American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Engineers

Caile Richards, Small Business Association of Michigan

Nicole Westfall, Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance

Jake Wilkinson, Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy

Jeff Zielke, City of Birmingham

Agenda Details

Welcome and Introductions

Summary of Last Meeting and Updates Since Last Meeting

Our last meeting was on March 5, 2020 and we laid out a plan to create some factsheets/guidance documents to help answer common questions/issues that members are aware of. MEEA submitted a proposal to create these documents with the help of collaborative members, topics proposed included

Residential Energy Code Fact Sheets:

Top priorities for code compliance and compliance path ways

Existing building requirements

Diagnostic testing requirements in the energy code

Commercial Energy Code Fact Sheets:

Lighting controls overview

Commissioning requirements

Unfortunately, immediately after that last meeting the COVID-19 pandemic started here in Michigan. The work from home orders went into effect, businesses were closed, and as a result everything was put on hold. Due to budget concerns, all projects that were not already in process were put on hold or cancelled so EGLE was not able to move forward on that proposal.

In positive news, I received notification on (6/16/2021) that the Bureau of Construction Codes has opened the Michigan Uniform Energy Code for revision. Since the process to update the code has started it doesn't make a lot of sense to do intensive training on the current targets in the code but EGLE would still like to take some action during the update process since that could take some time.

Discussion and Prioritization of Proposed Topics for the Group

Based on previous update cycles, it could be 18-24 months before the new code is in place. Jake Wilkinson will reach out to the Bureau of Construction Codes to see if there is a preliminary timeline that can be shared.

With the code update in process it doesn't make sense develop trainings or resources about the specific targets of the current code. The collaborative could develop these resources about the processes in the code but not the specific targets. While set points might change the processes, installation, testing, and verification will likely remain the same. Tasks such as those below are likely to remain the same so those items, and other similar tasks, would be good candidates for collaborative focus.

- Blower door testing
- Duct testing
- How buildings are commissioned
- When testing, such as those above, are required

Members indicated that commercial and residential codes each have a few common issues that crop up and could be addressed. These resources could also include industry best practices rather than specific to a particular code (has been done by MEEA in other states).

New building officials likely need training on all aspects of the code so there may still be some need amongst stakeholders if the collaborative decides to hold these trainings.

It was suggested that it would be beneficial for someone from collaborative be involved in the development of the code to ensure that the unclear areas of the code are improved at this update. With the current process the Bureau of Construction Codes has a high level of control in the code development with little input from outside organizations, aside from the public comment period.

Meeting Summary and Action Items Review

Jake Wilkinson will follow up with BCC about timeline for update

Jake Wilkinson will schedule meetings for the residential and commercial subcommittees to refine and prioritize items that can be addressed before the updated code takes effect