

Michigan Energy Code Compliance Collaborative

*** AGENDA ***

Location: 7109 W. Saginaw Hwy, Lansing, MI 48917
Date: July 30, 2019
Time: 10:00am – 12:00pm EST
Call-In #: 1 (877) 336-1829 **Access Code:** 2022874#

Facilitator for Meeting: Jake Wilkinson, Michigan Energy Office (MEO)

Attendees In Person

Ian Blanding, Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance
John Dulmes, Michigan Chemistry Council
Robert Jackson, Michigan Energy Office
Tim Mrozowski, Michigan State University (Retired)
Terri Novak, Michigan Energy Office
Jon Paradine, Bureau of Construction Codes
Sonya Pouncy, Energy Sciences
Caile Richards, Small Business Association of Michigan
Nicole Westfall, Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance
Jake Wilkinson, Michigan Energy Office

Attendees On The Phone

Eric Devries, E3M Solutions
Alexis Durocher, Energy Sciences
Jose Goncalves, DTE Energy
William (Bill) Hordyk, City of Grand Rapids
Kevin McNeely, McNeely Building Group
Chris McTaggart, Building Efficiency Resources
Diana Nash, Energy Sciences
Mike Turns, PSD Consulting

Agenda Details

Welcome and Introductions (*brief project intro for any new members*)

Jake Wilkinson, Michigan Energy Office (MEO), welcomed everyone to the meeting and established the goal of the meeting is to get updates from the two grant recipients that were awarded to address the high priority issues that were identified through work of the collaborative. Input from collaborative members is welcome and encouraged, if you have any comments at any time these can be sent to the project manager or to Jake Wilkinson and the comments will be taken into consideration for finalization of the documents.

Update from Energy Sciences on the Status of their Project

Diana Nash and Alexis Durocher, Energy Sciences

- Energy Sciences is holding a series of 6 trainings focused on local building inspectors and code enforcement officials. Locations and dates below
 - July 23, 2019 – Warren, MI
 - August 5, 2019 – Baraga, MI
 - August 7, 2019 – Alpena, MI
 - August 8, 2019 – Bay City, MI
 - August 12, 2019 – Benton Harbor, MI
 - August 13, 2019 – Muskegon, MI

- These trainings are free to attend and are offering 3 Bureau of Construction Code (BCC) credits and 3 Building Owners and Management Institute (BOMI) credits for completing this training. These credits are technical credits not planning credits
 - One member mentioned that there is a need for more planning/plan review credits and that if a training is submitted it should be submitted to all 4 disciplines so it qualifies for all
- Should reach out to COCM and SEMBOIA and other regional code official groups to market these trainings.
 - AIA accreditation is worth the price due to the need to train architects so that the designs meet code from the start.
 - Could do chapter specific trainings to reach their membership

Update and Discussion from MEEA on the Status of their Project and Draft Materials

Ian Blanding and Nicole Westfall, Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (MEEA)

- The project is
- MEEA has scheduled a meeting with City officials in Lansing and Detroit with a 3rd location to be determined
- The fact sheets should always reference the Michigan Energy Code due to the amendments to the standard code
- Residential Checklist
 - Notes about technical aspects that should be updated for correctness – see below
 - Wall cavities can be used a return ducts
 - Not mandatory to use licensed professionals for work done in Michigan
 - Should specify that codes apply to additions and new buildings
 - Formatting – Outline each zone (5,6,7) on the map for the corresponding fact sheet
 - Do need to have separate sheets for each zone
 - Appraiser buy-in can be tough but is very important to the process
 - Checklists are intended to be a fairly quick glimpse of requirements and refer to comprehensive code for more details
 - MEEA should consider adding ERI path since the utilities are incentivizing it
 - However, this is one of the most stringent compliance paths so it is not used much
 - Performance path and ERI are typically done by the same people but performance path is less stringent so it is used more often.
 - There is a mention of using RESCheck on the fact sheet which can be used but it would exceed the MI code so should it be referenced in a document trying to clarify compliance paths
- Community Value Fact Sheet
 - One member asked about the distribution plan for this document
 - This is not part of the grant award but it will be posted online for public access as well as shared with environmental groups and others that can help spread to a wide audience
 - There is a conference in November held by Ecoworks (Detroit, MI) targeting sustainability managers and MEEA plans to present at this conference
 - One member suggested direct mailing to municipalities; possibly a small award/grant to accomplish this
 - The MEO has a series of listserv's for email distribution of these factsheets
- Individual Value Factsheet
 - Distribution through similar channels as the Community Value Fact Sheet (see above)
 - Also can be distributed through individual reaching organizations (ie. Michigan Interfaith Power and Light; community action agencies)
 - Could include benefit of allergen reductions with a healthy indoor environments

- If there is a reliable source it could be included that an efficient home will use a % less energy than the average home
- Landlord/renter relationship related to the realtor/appraiser training
- As energy awareness continues to grow there has been movement towards disclosure of energy use for buildings that are to be sold or rented
- Property maintenance code presents an opportunity for improvements for building systems
 - Many are focusing on how to make buildings more efficient with a focus on existing buildings
- These factsheets could also be distributed at home improvement stores where people would go to get supplies for retrofit supplies (Home Depot, Lowes, Menards, etc.)
 - Could also partner with utility sessions that are held at these stores
- These should also be discussed/distributed with technical schools, trade schools, and high schools/talent centers
- There is currently a design/build day hosted at Impression 5 working with the Home Builders Association that could be utilized as another avenue to reach homeowners
- Commercial Checklist is still under development due to its complexity
 - It was suggested that it may need to be broken down by building system (lighting, HVAC, envelope, etc.)
 - And HVAC need to be broken down even more to individual items (boilers, chillers, controls, etc.)
 - And it may need to be separate for small buildings vs. large buildings
 - May need to have an HVAC expert to help with this
 - Should probably do a separate sheet for commissioning
 - The simplified criteria is rarely used because the building invariably fails one or more of the 26 criteria that need to be met to use this path
 - Many have been using whole building reports instead
 - The ideas above are likely too detailed and time consuming to be accomplished through the current grant project
 - These may need to be a focus of the commercial subcommittee
 - Controls and commission have been a growing focus

Prioritization of Issues and Next Steps

- For future work in the collaborative it should be considered to do a survey for code officials and other users of the code to determine what is needed for training and resources
 - For the inspectors, what is done when the code is updated to make sure that the inspectors are up to date with the current code?
 - Likely about a year from a new commercial code
 - What is needed when the next code is adopted to help enforce well
 - Likely will need trainings before/at the time of adoption
 - MSU and Navigant had done a similar survey with a residential focus for building departments
- One member asked about the status of the FAQ document that had been previously discussed and was sent out for comment
 - There has been no movement on that document lately due to time constraints for review of comments and as a result nothing has been posted at this time, will be revisited at a later date.