

Zero Energy Commercial Buildings Consortium
Codes and Standards Working Group Call Notes - Meeting 2
May 27, 2010
11:00am – 12:00pm EST

Key Conclusions

- 9 principles in the “Future of Energy Codes” paper are good, but there are other topics and issues this working group wants to add, including:
 - Impact of tools and information technologies like BIM on codes
 - Impact of other codes (such as fire, life/safety) on new energy-efficient technologies and on building energy codes
 - Resource constraints in building departments
 - Conformity assessments (self-certification, 2nd party, 3rd party)
 - Role of utilities in code development and enforcement, and codes role in helping utilities reduce peak load
- Report will need to address limits of prescriptive paths and strategies to shift towards systems and outcome-based approaches.
- Use framework of code development, adoption, and compliance and enforcement to group 14 identified topics.
- Each subtopic should primarily address challenges and recommendations as the main objectives for the report.

Next Steps

- Revise outline to cluster some topics under larger headings
- Get member feedback on outline—send to Garth Otto (gotto@naseo.org)
- Ask members to sign up for sections and volunteer to chair sections – please sign up through online poll. **Poll closes on June 18, 2010:** <http://www.doodle.com/i28ptpa2ggtxc3wt>
- Target date for next call end of June

Meeting Minutes & Discussion

Prescriptive vs. Performance

- We can't get to 50-70% improvements with prescriptive measures only. We will need to make major shifts in the system/process.
- Emphasis should shift towards systems, and outcomes-based approaches
 - This might have more traction on the commercial side rather than on the residential, small-commercial, and multi-family side.
- At the same time, there may still need to be some mandatory elements to set minimum standards

Challenges to Enforcement

- Unclear whether existing code enforcement system can really make #3 (extending codes to actual building performance) happen, since they are already having trouble enforcing current code. There may need to be a whole new approach.
- How can we amend or supplement the existing enforcement systems and mechanisms to help get to #3 without breaking the existing system?

- The mindset that building departments don't care about energy codes is not necessarily true. In many cases, they just have too many resource constraints (funding, trained staff, etc.), and they can only fulfill the basics (like fire, health and safety).