

Energy Efficiency Building Codes Working Group 5/10/2010 Meeting Notes

Members Present: Tim Ryan, *Chair*; Sam Alpert; Trudy Aron; Luke Bell; Maril Hazlett; Jerry Mallory; Tina Rakes; George Schluter; Bruce Snead [Adam McGonigle, from the Lt. Governor's staff, was also in attendance]

KCC Staff: Joe Harkins, Liz Brosius, and Ray Hammarlund

Johnson County energy codes checklist

- Jerry Mallory described Johnson County's "Energy Code Compliance Checklist," a 2-page checklist used by the County for their energy codes inspections of new and remodeled homes.
 - Most people opt for the prescriptive checklist approach, rather than the Home Energy Rating approach.
- The checklist is an adaptation of the information on Kansas Energy Efficiency Disclosure and could be a model for the baseline code referenced in the draft amendments to statute.
 - Includes information on thermal envelope air leakage and steel-framed wall requirements, which are not currently part of the disclosure form.
 - Suggested that amended bill draft should include a provision for technical assistance to assist local jurisdictions that adopt energy codes.

Definition of renovation

- Tim Ryan reviewed some background information he'd compiled—classification of work (repair, alteration, addition, change of occupancy, moved structures), dictionary definition, and IECC definitions.
 - Building codes refer to only 4 types of changes to existing buildings—alterations, additions, repairs, and changes of occupancy—remodeling and/or renovation are not explicitly defined
 - Relocation should also trigger code application
- General discussion of how to meet spirit of ARRA requirement without triggering application of energy codes for projects such as replacing shingles, installing new kitchen cabinets, etc.
- General consensus emerged that the definition should build on current definitions in existing codes.
 - Codes say that only the work that triggers the application of codes is considered part of the renovation.
 - Repairs would not be considered a renovation.
 - George Schluter suggested including examples in definition.

- Tim Ryan agreed to draft revised definition that will be emailed out to group for online discussion. If need be, another meeting will be scheduled to finalize definition and draft bill language.

KSA 66-1227 and 1228

- Liz Brosius reviewed the latest changes to the bill draft and EE disclosure form and discussed some remaining questions.
- Luke Bell noted that it will be hard to apply baseline code to renovated structures.
- Working Group will review revised bill draft before it is presented this summer at Joint Committee on Energy and the Environment.

Other business and next steps

- Department of Energy request for information on barriers to adopting energy codes.
 - Tim Ryan noted that one of the main obstacles is that elected officials at the local level are hesitant to adopt the newer codes due to the economy. The perception is that there are several new requirements within the 2009 codes that substantially increase the cost of construction and instead of amending out such areas of the 2009 code, they reject the entire package.
 - Lobbying by powerful, politically charged organizations also is an obstacle
 - Another obstacle is the overall mindset of the enforcement officials as to the importance of enforcing energy codes versus the traditional life safety codes based on available resources. Jurisdictions currently find themselves downsizing their workforce due to the economy and cannot afford to implement new programs such as energy enforcement.
 - Luke Bell noted that Kansas is one of 11 states that don't have statewide codes.
- Updating 2007 energy codes survey
 - Liz Brosius asked if it made sense to get updated information from the 25 Cities of the First Class – staff will work on this in coming months; have new results compiled before end of year.