

NASEO Buildings Committee
Conference Call Notes: Thursday, April 25, 2013; 3:30pm-4:30pm ET

Attendees

Advanced Energy
ASHRAE
Environmental Law Institute
Kansas Energy Office
Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources
Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Division of Energy
National Association of State Energy Officials
North Carolina State Energy Office
Tennessee Office of Energy Programs
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Utah Office of Energy Development
West Virginia Division of Energy

Announcements

The Buildings Committee co-chairs, Ward Lenz of North Carolina and Ryan Freed of Kansas, opened the call and provided an overview of the agenda. They announced that the next committee call is scheduled for June; NASEO will post it to their website and send an announcement once the specific day and time are confirmed.

New Report: “Getting to Yes for Energy Efficiency”

Sandy Fazeli, NASEO Program Manager, announced the release of a new report from the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA): “Getting to Yes for Energy Efficiency: A Guide to Developing a Persuasive Business Case for Energy Efficiency in Commercial and Corporate Properties.” She noted that this guide outlines a number of decision points and processes for implementing energy efficiency in commercial buildings and offers strategies on how to enlist project champions, building teams, and exploring available resources to pay for the project. The document is available at MEA’s website: <http://energy.maryland.gov/Business/businesscasguide/documents/YesforEnergyEfficiencyGuide.pdf>. Ms. Fazeli noted that NASEO will invite Dan Bresette, the report author, to speak about the report in more depth on a future committee call.

Overview of Foundations’ Roundtable Meetings and Reports on Building Retrofit Priorities

Brian Henderson, NASEO’s Southeast Regional Coordinator, provided a summary of a series of Building Retrofit Industry Market (BRIM) reports released by a consortium of foundations including the Energy Foundation, Doris Duke, Rockefeller, Kresge, MacArthur, and Living Cities. Last year, NASEO was invited to participate in several expert roundtables to discuss how philanthropic organizations can increase the pace of the building retrofit market in five building sectors, including commercial office, retail, residential, multifamily, and health care. The reports are the result of these roundtable discussions as well as one-on-one interviews with sector experts designed to identify promising approaches to stimulate the retrofit market, areas for further research, and cross-sector overlap. A copy of Mr. Henderson’s presentation is available at on [NASEO’s Buildings Committee webpage](#). To access the reports themselves, the Energy Foundation’s website includes an [executive summary](#) as well as sector-specific reports covering [commercial](#), [health care](#), [multifamily](#), and [single family](#) buildings.

NASEO Buildings Program Update

Ms. Fazeli provided an update on NASEO activities and projects in buildings. Current and recent projects include the National Zero-Net Energy Leadership Initiative in partnership with New Buildings Institute; the Zero Energy Commercial Buildings Consortium; partnerships with the Energy Services Coalition, the

National Association of Energy Services Companies, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on institutional buildings; a multi-state residential retrofit evaluation project; a project exploring energy efficiency in multifamily properties; and activities in the area of building energy code adoption, compliance and enforcement. The presentation is available at https://www.naseo.org/Data/Sites/1/documents/committees/buildings/calls/2013-04-25-buildings_committee.pdf.

ASHRAE Presentation on State and Local Activities

Mark Wills, Manager of State and Local Government Affairs for ASHRAE, discussed his organization's efforts to forge partnerships with states. He noted that in January 2013, NASEO and ASHRAE signed a Memorandum of Understanding to promote increase cooperation between ASHAE chapters and NASEO members. He also announced the launch of a new ASHRAE Society Committee, the Grassroots Government Activities Committee (GGAC), which provides guidance and education to policymakers and other governing bodies within the state. GGAC's public policy priorities include advancing ASHRAE standards for energy efficiency in new and existing buildings and expanding the workforce and skillsets for building energy efficiency. To these ends, ASHRAE's Advanced Energy Design Guides (AEDGs) provide off-the-shelf solutions to help design teams achieve 30% or 50% efficiency beyond the requirements of Standard 90.1 for offices, retail, K-12 school, healthcare, highway lodging, and warehouses. Total distribution of the AEDGs is nearing 500,000 copies (both electronic and hard copy), and ASHRAE recently partnered with NASEO to organize a congressional briefing covering the use of the AEDGs for Kentucky's high performance and zero-net-energy schools. This topic also gained visibility through ASHRAE's *High Performance Buildings (HPB)* magazine; states that are interested in an *HPB* subscription should contact Mr. Wills directly at mwills@ashrae.org.

Mr. Wills also discussed ASHRAE's new building energy labeling program, the Building Energy Quotient (bEQ). An energy-specific platform, the bEQ measures and provides easy-to-understand ratings for building energy use in two formats: in operation (based on actual energy use) and as designed (based on modeling of building assets). The program includes a differentiation for high performance buildings, with an emphasis on net-zero and near-zero energy consumption. The bEQ program draws off of ASHRAE's professional certification program, allowing "Building Energy Assessment Professionals" and "Building Energy Modeling Professionals" to conduct bEQ models and ratings. Mr. Wills's presentation is available at <https://www.naseo.org/Data/Sites/1/documents/committees/buildings/calls/2013-04-25-ashrae.pdf>.

Committee Action Items

- The MEA report mentioned in Ms. Fazeli's update is available at: energy.maryland.gov/Business/businesscaseguide/documents/YesforEnergyEfficiencyGuide.pdf.
- The BRIM reports mentioned in Mr. Henderson's presentation is available at www.ef.org.
- Committee members with ideas for future calls or topics of interest should contact Sandy Fazeli (sfazeli@naseo.org).