

NASEO Buildings Committee Call
Meeting Minutes: Tuesday, July 17, 2012, 3pm-4pm ET

Attending Organizations

Alabama Energy Office
ASHRAE
Better Building Manufacturing Association
Buildings Performance Institute
Colorado State Energy Office
Delaware Energy Office
Energy Services Coalition
Environmental Protection Agency
Maryland Energy Administration
National Association of Clean Air Agencies

National Association of State Energy Officials
National Home Performance Counsel
North Carolina Department of Commerce
Pacific Northwest National Laborator
SAIC
SRA International
Washington State University
The Weidt Group
West Virginia Department of Commerce Energy

Welcome and Introductions:

David Terry, Executive Director of NASEO, opened the call by introducing Sandy Fazeli, the new Buildings Program Manager and Diana Lin's replacement. He then passed the line to Ward Lenz, NC SEO Director and Buildings Committee Chair, who welcomed everyone on the line and gave an overview of the agenda for the meeting, which included updates on recent NASEO and partner activities.

Residential Buildings

1. Project Coordination with the National Home Performance Council (NHPC)

Malcolm Woolf, Director of the Maryland Energy Administration, introduced the NHPC, whose mission is to improve home energy performance using a whole-house approach by facilitating coordination and alignment between public and private sector stakeholders; developing standardized practices; and conducting research, analysis, and education. He introduced Kara Saul Rinaldi, who serves as the NHPC's Executive Director.

Malcolm identified two program areas where NHPC hopes to engage state energy programs and stakeholders. The first is in the area of conversion rates, with efforts designed to answer the following research questions: what methods are currently being used to test the effectiveness of specific incentives? What are the most effective ways to improve conversion rates.

The second research area in which the NHPC hopes to engage states is in marketing targeted to address the homeowner lifecycle. Research in this area would address the following questions: what methods have states used to outreach to homeowners at particular points in the homeownership lifecycle? Have any states undertaken a program incentive or marketing effort to specifically attract and educate new homeowners about home energy efficiency? Was it successful? How was success measured? Could and should effort be replicated.

More detail regarding these proposed efforts can be found in the attached document, "NHPC Potential State Projects." Those who have questions, want to learn more, or are interested in partnering with NHPC should contact Sandy Fazeli at sfazeli@naseo.org.

2. Buildings Performance Institute (BPI) Update

Tiger Adolf announced the extension of the application deadline for BPI's home energy professional certification pilot exams. These include four new certifications in the most common job categories, with a specific focus on weatherization. All the credentials will meet the ISO standard. Tiger encouraged those interested in taking the exam to have extensive field and training experience before taking it.

Tiger also mentioned the recent public comment phase for the BPI 1100, the home energy auditing standard. The comment period recently closed, but anyone interested in learning more should contact tadolf@bpi.org.

Building Energy Codes

1. Codes Updates from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)

DOE's recent efforts have supported the development of energy codes and standards that are cost-effective from a lifecycle perspective. The Building Energy Codes Program has issued the results of a number of state-specific residential IECC cost effectiveness analyses. These analyses assume a 30-year loan cycle, with a 10% down payment and 5% loan interest rate. DOE used two prototypes for their analyses—a single-family detached home prototype and a multifamily low-rise model—in order to examine scenarios and develop a rating scheme to compare the 2012 and 2009 IECC with the 2006 IECC. DOE's methodology looked at one representative city within each climate zone in each state, for a total of 199 cities.

Some of the findings from the analyses are that significant cost increases are associated with shifting from the older versions to the 2012 IECC, especially in single-family homes. However, there is also a 32% national average energy savings associated with upgrading from the 2006 IECC to the 2012 IECC. DOE has already completed about 20 state reports, with 20 more in progress. Overall, they are finding that the newer versions of the IECC are cost-effective and show a 6-7 year payback period. This finding differs from a recent National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) study that showed over a 12 year payback for upgrading the code. This is attributed to a difference in the assumptions of each study: NAHB assumed higher construction costs (mainly in wall insulation) than did DOE.

DOE also recently published a final Determination of energy savings on May 17, 2012. This Determination indicates the 2012 IECC saves energy compared to the previous 2009 version. Federal legislation empowers DOE to issue a Determination on the IECC and Standard 90.1. When a positive determination is issued, states then have two years to update their code to meet or exceed the levels of savings in the new code version. Additional information on Determinations can be found on the [DOE Building Energy Codes website](#). The original Federal Register notice can be reviewed [here](#). And the current status of energy codes can be accessed [here](#). Michael Erbesfeld is the official contact (as noted in the Federal Register notice) for Determinations; however, Jeremiah Williams is also available to answer questions: jeremiah.williams@ee.doe.gov

2. NASEO Codes Report

NASEO recently published a report, "[Leveraging State Energy Office-Utility Partnerships to Advance Building Energy Codes](#)," to serve as a resource to SEOs and utilities as they work to strengthen or develop partnerships on building energy codes. The report illustrates successes and lessons learned from several existing SEO and utility building energy codes programs. Additionally, it offers recommendations for how SEOs and utilities can collaborate on building code adoption, implementation, and compliance. It incorporates four state case studies from Arizona, Georgia, Iowa, and Washington.

3. Code Compliance Award from the Institute for Market Transformation (IMT)

Ward encouraged buildings committee members to apply for IMT's Code Compliance Award. It will recognize jurisdictions that have had success in achieving code compliance in a cost-effective manner. Winners will be announced at the ICC 2012 Annual Conference and in a variety of online and social media. The deadline to apply is August 15 and the application is highlighted on IMT's home page: <http://d.imt.org/>.

Commercial Buildings

1. State and Local Energy Efficiency Action (SEE Action) Network Resources

Ward noted that SEE Action's Existing Commercial Buildings Working Group has released new fact sheets and policy design guides on their commercial buildings website. Resources on benchmarking, high-performance leasing, retro-commissioning, energy management, and other topics may be found here: http://www1.eere.energy.gov/seeaction/existing_commercial.html. Alecia Ward of the Weidt Group serves as a member of the working group and encouraged anyone with feedback on the resources to get in touch with her or a SEE Action representative.

Public Buildings

1. NASEO-EPA ENERGY STAR Webinar Series

EPA and NASEO are holding a series of monthly webinars between now and November 2012. The upcoming session on July 19 kicks off two-part series on how to use the Portfolio Manager benchmarking platform to support and implement state energy efficiency programs. Other topics will include using ENERGY STAR to launch an energy efficiency competition; finance energy efficient upgrades; and engage industry participation. NASEO's [Events webpage](#) includes more information.

2. FY2012 State Energy Program (SEP) Competitive Funding Awards

At the end of June 2012, DOE released information about the FY2012 SEP competitive funding. About \$14 million was awarded to 22 states and territories. Details about each project are [available through DOE](#).

North Carolina had applied for funds to improve the energy savings performance contracting (ESPC) process and to make it more accessible/profitable for rural communities, small cities, and K-12 facilities. Washington responded that the state has a very well-established ESPC program and has passed legislation that requires use of ENERGY STAR benchmarking to rate all large state-owned buildings in the portfolio. Washington has also developed a scoring method and is attempting to test the effectiveness of this policy.

3. Energy Services Coalition (ESC) Market Transformation Conference

ESC is holding the first national two-day conference focused on best practices for upgrading and modernizing public facilities. The conference will include a significant amount of interaction, networking, and peer exchange. More information on the Market Transformation Conference (scheduled for August 23-24 in Nashville, TN) is [available through ESC](#).

NASEO Annual Meeting

1. General Conference Information

NASEO's Annual Meeting will be occurring September 9-12 at the Hyatt Regency Minneapolis. A preliminary agenda has been released and is available at <http://annualmeeting.naseo.org/>.

2. Next Buildings Committee Session

The next Buildings Committee session will be an in-person meeting at NASEO's Annual Meeting. It will take place Monday, September 10, from 3:00pm to 5:00pm. The agenda for this session will be shared with the Buildings Committee in the weeks leading up to the Annual Meeting.

Discussion

Hamilton McLean of SAIC stressed the importance of bringing the question of financing into the building energy efficiency discussion. This is the key to having building owners take real actions that result in energy efficiency. He suggested higher levels of coordination between the Buildings Committee and Financing Committee.

Session Close