

# Nevada Energy Code Collaborative Meeting Minutes

April 18, 2022

Recording of meeting: <https://vimeo.com/701031036>

## Welcome and Introductions!

20 stakeholders joined the second 2022 quarterly collaborative online meeting.

This quarters meeting includes discussions from several areas across the building industry. One presentation was on finding from a recent study on remote virtual inspections and another presentation showed what climate related amendments are being adopted locally across the U.S.

## Remove Virtual Inspection Study (04:00 in the video recording)

Alison Lindburg with the Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance shared highlights from the findings of their research into RVI use, adoption, and opportunities across the U.S. The DOE funded study looked at RVIs that used visual or electronic aids to observe construction. The project has additional phases to create technical resources from the findings and develop educational resources for these stakeholders. They surveyed contractors/builders and state and local jurisdictions to obtain the findings.

The found in the western 1/3 of U.S. builders and contractors surveyed were aware or participating in some level of RVI. For the most projects being inspected included water heater installations, HVAC change outs, re-roofs, window replacements and electric panel changeouts. Single family construction led the way with most RVI followed closely by low-rise commercial and then multi-family residential construction.

The study also captured the level of electronic plan review in place. The findings for the western U.S. showed 83% of builder's, contractors were using electronic permitting. And the leading reason to use this approach was scheduling flexibility. There was also a large percentage of participants who felt they was no additional benefit over in-person inspections.

The challenges they found for jurisdictions implementing RVI included accuracy, especially during the video/visual part of the inspection and the "concern" of potential data falsification. Although no one was aware of any falsification. Other challenges included resource constraints and the lack of consistency because of the person performing the video. There were also staffing challenges and the technological issues of devices, lighting, and operator abilities.

They also view opportunities with RVI to include new technology and tools, training, workforce development and potential RVI software including technical support for users. The team will continue additional research including the use of drones and measuring hybrid inspection processes. The report can be found at <https://neep.org/remote-virtual-inspections-rvi-challenges-and-opportunities>.

## Environmental amendments being adopted at jurisdictions (36:30 in the video recording)

Shaunna Mozingo, Mozingo Code Group (MCG) presented on amendments being adopted locally across the western U.S. (not including California) that are based on environmental and climate goals adopted locally. Shaunna and her team are working with municipalities to incorporate new

requirements into the local codes based jurisdictional climate/environmental goals. The top four municipal environmental goals transitioning to the IECC or other I-codes include building electrification, renewable energy (solar electric), EV charging infrastructure and addressing the embodied carbon in new construction.

With building electrification requirements municipalities are taking two approaches – electric ready which includes sizing electric panels, space for appliance, wire and outlets or the second approach is implementing a policy for all-electric buildings where gas may be included for specific needs. Other approaches include very high efficiency gas appliances and outcome-based compliance.

For the renewable/solar requirements many jurisdictions are adopting the solar ready appendices from the residential and commercial sections of the IECC. Some communities are looking at going further where specific levels of energy must be offset for the building or even a fee in lieu of option. EV requirements are across the board with jurisdictions looking at EV capable, EV ready or EV installed.

### **GOE Updates (1:02:30 in video recording)**

Robin provided an update on activities and opportunities at the office of energy and relation to energy codes. GOE is very interested in an U.S. DOE request for information addressing building energy codes. This RFI will eventually transition into a RFQ/FOA from DOE to support building energy codes in states and municipalities. There will be a budget of \$225 million for this effort. GOE is interested in working with municipalities and others who may be interested in applying when the funding opportunity is released.

GOE continues to work on the energy education project to develop a curriculum for community colleges in Nevada supporting the building construction workforce. The program, Smart Energy Design Assistance Center (SEDAC) is operation with an introductory webinar which was presented in April 2022.

A third effort they are participating is a project with NBI on developing educational resources and training guides to support industry on electrification of space heating and electrification of water heating. This project will deliver guides for contractors, designers, code officials and policy makers. Anyone interested in this project should reach out directly to Robin.

Robin also shared the opportunity to participate in ICC membership councils and how there are opportunities for Nevada ICC members to participate in these councils. Robin suggested participating in six discipline-specific Membership Councils: Building Membership Council, Fire Service Membership Council, PMG Membership Council (plumbing, mechanical, fuel gas, pool & spa), Sustainability Membership Council, ICC Global Membership Council, and the Emerging Leaders Membership Council. More information and to sign up is located at: <https://www.iccsafe.org/membership/membership-councils/>.

## 2024 IECC subcommittee updates (1:11:00 in video recording)

Jim is a member of the 2024 IECC Residential Consensus Standards Committee and is participating in the development of the next energy code. Jim shared highlights of proposals moving forward from committee approval to the public comment phase of the standards development.

Highlights include

Commercial IECC	Residential IECC
EV infrastructure, new parking only, multiple EV charging requirements	EV infrastructure <b>in development</b> for single family and multi-family
Roof reflectance changes	Window efficiency increased in CZ 5 to 0.27 U
Air leakage testing	Air leakage to 4.0 ACH in CZ 1-2
Controls, lighting and mechanical	Demand responsive lighting controls
Performance path option supporting municipalities using energy usage instead of energy cost	Above code programs would need to exceed code by a multiplier of 1.15
Reflective insulation and radiant barriers	Reflective insulation and radiant barriers
A UA multiplier similar to residential	Sampling for R2 multifamily

## Other Updates (1:23:00 in video recording)

Susan Dowty, ICC, reiterated the benefit of have more industry from Nevada participate in the ICC membership council committees. She is available to answer questions and assist in individuals applying for the committees. Susan also mentioned the month of May is Building Safety Month. The website can be found at: [www.buildingsafetymonth.org](http://www.buildingsafetymonth.org). There are weekly themes from 1) Energy and Innovation, 2) Building safety careers, 3) Disaster preparedness and 4) Water safety.

There are also virtual events including webinars. Some highlighted by Susan include Tiny homes and affordability on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, during week two, on May 10<sup>th</sup> there is a webinar on Career paths for military veterans, and rounding out the month during week four, on May 24<sup>th</sup> is a webinar on Backflow basics: repair & testing.

The ICC annual conference will be held in Louisville, Kentucky on Sept 11-14<sup>th</sup> and the Group B Public Comment hearings will follow from Sept 14<sup>th</sup> through the 21<sup>st</sup>.

Jim mentioned a very short update on the DOE Residential Field Study status. PNNL is finalizing the analysis on the Nevada findings, and we should see the results in the very near future. Jim shared preliminary findings during last quarters virtual meeting. An RFP is close to release for phase two of the residential field study which will include providing training across the state on the findings of the data collection phase performed by MCG.

Help select a date for the next meeting in July/August 2022. Please go to the **following link** and select dates that work for your schedule: <https://doodle.com/meeting/participate/id/erkMMnWa>