

# Nevada Energy Code Collaborative Meeting Minutes

March 17, 2021

Recording of meeting: <https://bit.ly/3scKKSa>

## Welcome and Introductions

31 stakeholders joined the first quarter 2021 collaborative online meeting.

The focus of this quarters meeting is the Nevada climate strategy and how buildings are a piece of the puzzle for the state to reach its goals.

## Residential labeling programs and practices (Minute 2:15 in the video recording)

David Heslam, Executive Director of [Earth Advantage](#) joined the meeting to discuss energy labeling practices and programs they have administered. The climate strategy highlights one area to address emissions of residential and commercial buildings is the use of [residential energy labeling](#) and energy audits. David discussed how programs inform consumers and provide mechanisms for the real estate market. He discussed how Home Energy Score (HES) and HERS are not compatible with state implementing HES across all residential building types with HERS still being used for new, and existing buildings.

It's important that the data output is formatted to support RESO standard fields for the real estate industry and support of MLS's. Some states and cities have moved forward with the program for all sales transactions while he explained in the northeast Massachusetts is layering labeling and scorecards on top of utility programs.

## AIA's support to the design community for climate and sustainability (Minute 25:30 in the video recording)

Michael Winn, Sr Manager, State and Local Policy, and Paul Karrer, Sr Manager, Building Code Policy of AIA shared how AIA is supporting state and local chapters, states and municipalities and their positions at the national level to support efficient buildings. AIA has three focus points: a climate action plan, a [policy platform 2020](#) and a [blueprint for better](#). One of the goals of the climate plan is to catalyze architects to act through design and participation in [local and state](#) activities.

AIA has developed a policy platform for use by the architectural community. It supports climate, economy, equity and public health and is available for architects to leverage. The organization focuses on transforming the use of energy such as promoting renewable energy, building electrification and zero carbon building codes as implemented in an appendix of the 2021 IECC. AIA is also active in the development of the [ZERO code](#) and [Advanced Energy Design Guides](#) (with ASHRAE, DOE, USGBC, IES and AIA). What they see coming next from state and local policy is building electrification, building decarbonization, zero carbon, embodied carbon, and adaptive reuse of existing buildings.

## **Nevada climate strategy and how energy codes play a pivotal role (Minute 55:30 in the video recording)**

Robin Yochum, Energy Program Manager, Governor's Office of Energy spoke about the [Nevada climate strategy](#) and how buildings, and codes, provide a pivotal role in the strategy. Governor Sisolak is committed to position Nevada as a clean energy leader. The climate initiative started in 2019 with the passing of [SB254](#) (an act relating to GHG reductions) and also in [2019 an E.O. \(2019-22\)](#) was signed to direct state agencies to develop the strategy. GOE co-chaired the development of the climate strategy along with the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR). The state views energy codes as instrumental in achieving Nevada's climate goals.

NRS 701 requires GOE to adopt the most recently published IECC. The 2018 IECC was adopted in July 2018. A large portion of the state has adopted the 2018 IECC since. Robin showed how 96.5% of the population in the state is covered by the 2018 IECC adoptions. The GOE is aware that a smooth adoption process includes the full family of the I-Codes. Training must occur, implementation and enforcement and funding is required at the local level in the state. GOE recognizes significant staff time required.

GOE is in the process of adopting the 2021 IECC this year. They are investigating the ability to adopt appendices along with the IECC that positively impact Nevadans. Appendices could include code requirements such as EV infrastructure approved by ICC governmental members for the 2021 IECC but disapproved during the code appeals process in 2020. They will support training for changes between the 2021 and 2018 and any adopted appendices. Discussion included how the GOE can support the advancement of the next IECC along with all of the I-codes that jurisdictions adopt.

GOE is participating in [SEDAC](#), a DOE funded project, to support workforce development for energy codes in Nevada. Participation by code officials, community college, and industry. There is a virtual meeting on March 25<sup>th</sup> and how you can participate in Nevada. If you would like to participate please contact Robin, [ryochum@energy.nv.gov](mailto:ryochum@energy.nv.gov), to obtain information about the March 25<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Susan Dowty reminded all that the 2021 I-Codes are available to view online at no cost to the public. The [building codes are free to view and accessible online](#).

## **Utility and Legislative Report – (Minute 1:21:00 in the video recording)**

Before jumping into the report Jim reported that Tom Polikalas will be leaving SWEEP this month and moving to Utah. Tom has a teenage son in Utah and desires to live nearby during his son's teenage years. We will miss Tom and his work in the field for many years in Nevada. **Tom reached out to me after the meeting and wanted to express his thanks to all of you and the work he has done with many individuals across the state.**

Robin mentioned [SB150](#) which is a Tiny Home bill in the legislature this year. This bill would require a governing body to allow tiny houses in all zoning districts that allow single-family residences as well as the allowance of tiny houses in any zoning district that does not allow single-family residences. There is also an Appliance Standards bill for appliances that don't

have set efficiency requirements by the federal government. There could be a few appliances that are incorporated in buildings such as gas fireplaces, commercial kitchen equipment and some ventilation fans. For the most part it applies to small mobile appliances. Covered under the standards are 13 products: air purifier, cold temperature fluorescent lamp, commercial dishwasher, commercial fryer, commercial hot-food holding cabinet, commercial oven, commercial steam cooker, computer or computer monitor, electrical vehicle supply equipment, faucet, gas fireplace, high CRI fluorescent lamp, impact-resistant fluorescent lamp, portable electric spa, residential ventilating fan, showerhead, spray sprinkler body, urinal, water closet, or water cooler.

On the regulatory front NV Energy has started the process to develop their next DSM plan for their services in Nevada. Everything is preliminary at the moment. There is a new program working group and NV Energy has tentatively identified that it plans to add three new residential and one low-income program enhancement. The programs tentatively being discussed include:

- Residential new construction for single family and multifamily buildings. These buildings will exceed current energy code
- Deep retrofits for existing buildings – such as insulation and air leakage
- Battery installations and demand response support to the utility
- Grid connected water heaters

The filing should occur sometime this summer and will be decided by the end of the year.

### **Wrap Up**

Doodle Poll to help select a date for the next meeting in **June 2021**. Please go to the [following link](#) and select dates that work for your schedule:

[https://doodle.com/poll/zwa5qf49pa6tu9yv?utm\\_source=poll&utm\\_medium=link](https://doodle.com/poll/zwa5qf49pa6tu9yv?utm_source=poll&utm_medium=link)