

Nevada Energy Code Collaborative Meeting Minutes

January 20, 2022

Recording of meeting:-<https://vimeo.com/674452189>

Welcome and Introductions!

23 stakeholders joined the first 2022 quarterly collaborative online meeting.

This quarters meeting includes discussions from several areas across the building industry. Two discussions provide support to the building industry today while also looking at federal funding the state plans to pursue that supports energy codes and the building industry.

Solar App+ (03:40 in the video recording)

Jeff Cook with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory is the program manager of the SolarAPP tool. He shared with the group how this product, currently operating in several cities across the U.S. SolarAPP is a solar automated permitting software program. The tool has been under development since 2018. They have worked with jurisdictions, industry, and solar industry for the development. The software supports the 2018 and 2021 I-codes and the 2017 and 2020 NEC.

The code is free to municipalities to adopt and is supported by a small use/administration fee by the renewable energy installers. The software process is to produce permits instantly after permit payment for eligible applications. Only designed for residential retrofit applications.

They are now starting to pilot solar and storage installations in the application but not standalone storage. They are looking at expanding the application in the future to include standalone storage and also electric vehicle infrastructure. The goal of the app is to up speed permitting if possible and simplify permitting while also reducing workload on the already full capacity of building departments.

There have been 3,300 residential rooftop PV permits approved to date and 200+ solar and storage projects. They have seen 12 days faster on average than projects using traditional permitting. The process is simple when the installer applies to SolarAPP, the software checks the application for code compliance and then a permit is instantly produced after payment and the compliance check within the app.

The software application can be integrated into the jurisdiction current permitting platform. In this case the contractor would start the permitting process through the jurisdiction's online software. SolarAPP can also be operated as a standalone tool. To learn more you can register, no cost & no obligation at <https://solarapp.nrel.gov/>. The SolarAPP team can be reached at team@solar-app.org.

Nevada Circuit Rider (31:50 in the video recording)

Shaunna Mozingo, Mozingo Code Group (MCG) and Robin Yochum, Governor's Office of Energy spoke about the Circuit Rider program in the state as it has been operational since the 4th quarter of 2021. U.S. DOE is funding this circuit rider to support residential and commercial energy code needs in

Nevada. Shaunna can support building departments, designers, builders with target education on the energy codes and standards. The circuit rider meets with targeted groups to address specific code compliance questions. It's an audience focused support that is tailored to each unique concern.

The Governor's Office of Energy has developed a webpage summarizing the program with contact links to reach Shaunna and her team. You can reach the webpage at https://energy.nv.gov/Programs/Building_Energy_Codes/Nevada_Energy_Code_Circuit_Rider/ which includes the email to outreach to the circuit rider - nv.circuitrider@gmail.com. A google drive will be developed to include easily accessible resources to support the building industry with the energy code.

The collaborative discussed how this information and resource can be shared across the state and industries. Aaron mentioned with the six-year adoption cycle there tends to be many questions and info about differences in the code. The circuit rider will also need to be aware of the local amendments, e.g., Northern or Southern ICC chapters. There are less questions to building departments today after adoption a few years ago.

Communications is helpful to convey the information to building code enforcement officials and the ICC chapters. Robin will start the process to develop an informational letter describing the program and benefits for the municipalities.

An open discussion on how the circuit rider responds when there may be multiple interpretations from within one jurisdiction. The plan is for the circuit rider to request a code interpretation from the ICC if this arises in a municipality. In fact, Shaunna mentioned this is how she worked through a similar situation under a support program in Colorado. And finally, as questions are received by the circuit rider they will be logged and available on the google drive, and anonymously posted, as this provides insight if there are patterns of similar questions, that can be supported with further focused training.

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (50:00 in video recording)

Robin provided insight on funding opportunities for the state that are available because of the federal infrastructure bill that was passed in 2021. The state and GOE are looking at these opportunities and planning to apply for some of the programs.

Opportunities include:

- Grid infrastructure and resiliency - \$5M for Nevada
- Energy efficiency & building infrastructure - \$3M for Nevada
- Fuels & technology \$300M for Nevada
- Federal aid highways - \$2.5B for Nevada

One competitive funding opportunity is **Upgrading our Electric Grid & Ensuring Reliability & Resiliency**. The focus is to demonstrate innovative approaches to transmission, storage and distribution and new approaches to grid resiliency. Cost share required.

The **Electric Grid reliability & Resilience** opportunity is for projects associated with energy generation, distribution, reduction of GHG emissions from power generation and increasing energy efficiency.

Cost effective codes implementation for efficiency & resilience funding opportunities. GOE intends to submit a proposal for these funds – interested in partnerships. Use of funds for training & materials to: builders, contractors, sub-contractors, architects & other design professionals, building code officials to improve implementation and compliance with energy codes OR Code studies OR Develop and implement a plan for highly effective codes implementation including measuring compliance OR Address various implementation needs in rural, suburban, and urban areas OR Implement updates in energy codes.

Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant opportunity. The GOE expects to receive roughly \$1.9 million to stand this program up. Associated infrastructure is also allowable under these programs. Stakeholder engagement and partnerships are important to apply.

Local governments can also apply and the 10 most populated cities in the state can apply directly to DOE. The state must use 60% for other local governments that do not qualify to be funded directly through DOE.

Robin asked if there is anyone interested in partnering with GOE to reach out to her with concepts. ICC has produced a fact sheet on key initiatives which can be [found here](#). A National League of Cities article is attached to the minutes for further information.

There will be a number of stakeholder meetings to gather information from Nevada stakeholders.

The **Energy Auditor Training program** is of much interest to the energy office. GOE intends to submit a proposal for this funding opportunity when it is announced from DOE. Stakeholder engagement will be imperative to determine how to best stand up this program. Partner with trainers, institutions that provide certifications. Currently there are about 30 +/- auditors in NV – believe we need more to implement other parts of the IIJA funding

Establish an Energy Auditor Training Program. Funds must pay for the training and certification. 10% of funds could be used to pay the wages of a trainee during training and certification.

Certificates: ASHRAE Building Energy Assessment Professional; ASHRAE Certified Auditor; BPI Home Energy Professional Energy Auditor; RESNET Home Energy Rater

Les mentioned NV Energy could be a stakeholder in this effort as they are providing funding up to 50% of the cost of energy audits.

The **Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan fund** could provide up to \$15M to Nevada to provide loans for commercial and residential energy audits and upgrades. The loans can provide up to 25% of funding for technical assistance.

Charging and Fueling infrastructure is competitive with program funding of \$2.5B. This includes installing alternative fuel infrastructure along FHWA-designated alternative fuel corridors

DOE Residential field study update (1:15:00 in video recording)

Jim shared some preliminary data from PNNL from the residential field study We are waiting for NASEO, the prime contractor on this study, to release its RFP for the training instructor and scheduled

period to perform the training. NASEO will first schedule a stakeholder meeting to share the results and develop a training plan for the study

Other Updates (1:27 in video recording)

Highlights from the 2021 ICC Board of Directors Winter Meeting: Code cycle will move to two Committee Action Hearings The board approved a standing motion from the Board Committee on the Long-Term Code Development Process to revise the code development cycle to incorporate two committee action hearings for each code group. This change expands the current process from two independent one-year cycles to a single continuous three-year cycle. This change will not take effect until the code development cycle beginning in 2024 for the development of the 2027 International Codes.

March 27 – April 6, 2022: Group B Committee Action Hearings, Rochester Riverside Convention Center Rochester, NY

September 14 - 21, 2022: ICC's Annual Conference and Group B Public Comment Hearings, Kentucky International Convention Center Louisville

Digital Codes Premium: codes.iccsafe.org

Doodle Poll to help select a date for the next meeting in **April 2022**. Please go to the **following link** and select dates that work for your schedule:

https://doodle.com/poll/mp5i4mwtv4hnk7dv?utm_source=poll&utm_medium=link