

# Renewable Energy & Energy Conservation Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes  
February 4, 2009

## Board Members Present:

Richard C. Anderson	Charles Ashurst	Guy Ballard	Pete Brunson
Robert Davies	Laraine Swenson	Justin Cooper	Emily Malik
Carl Francis	Paul Taylor	Jeff White	Issa Hamud

Kevin Emerson, via telephone

## Also in attendance:

Robert Carpenter	Campbell Scientific
Dave Stetler	Campbell Scientific

### A. Approval of 1/7/2009 meeting minutes

There were no changes to last month's minutes.

### B. Presentation and discussion regarding future building codes

Kevin Emerson joined the board via telephone to give a presentation about changes in the building energy codes, expedited permitting processes, and federal stimulus money.

See four handouts

1. Energy efficiency topics for consideration – a general outline of Kevin's presentation
2. An analysis prepared for the energy efficient codes coalition (EECC) by ICF International
3. Pursuing "beyond code" efforts (from BCAP)
4. Request for code amendment
5. The Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant

Kevin began the presentation with a discussion of building energy codes and the IECC 2009 changes. He noted that building codes are updated every 3 years and that 2006 is currently what Utah has adopted. Code is just a minimum standard for energy efficiency. We will adopt the new standards in 2010 which is 12 to 15% more energy efficient than current code. Some examples of this are that wall insulation (currently R19) requirement will be R20, etc. Kevin pointed to the publication listed above as #2 for a description of what the major changes are.

Kevin further noted that there are two ways to meet the new code. You can take a prescriptive path and follow code directly or there is a performance path where you need to do some modeling, but there is some wiggle room in that path.

Laraine asked if the wall insulation requirement was on par with the attic insulation requirement and if attic insulation requirements were going to change as well.

- Paul mentioned that no, the attic insulation requirement didn't change as far as he knew but the wall insulation was on par with the attic insulation.

Emily described a little bit about the HERS rating process and explained that her and Carl Francis (not present) have been taking the course to become HERS raters but would probably not go that far.

Laraine asked how much more it costs to build Energy Star buildings over the 2009 code and referred to page two of the article – cost investment v. savings per year.

- Kevin noted that we could contact HERS raters Dave Wilson and/or Brian Taylor for this information. Kevin also noted that it was a good question to ask what the savings in utility costs are as well. Although he wasn't sure if they could replicate the table, they could probably give a range or a ball park figure.

Charles asked how IECC relates to LEED certification and energy star

- Kevin replied that Energy star is based on a percent higher or above code or a national standard (prescriptive method).
- Rob mentioned a presentation by the McStain group where they mentioned a 10% cost increase for an equal decrease in Energy Use.
- Jeff noted that the payback is long
- Paul notes that payback for energy star homes are much quicker – 25 years perhaps.

Laraine stated that we should go to lenders to negotiate energy costs into a loan amount

- Kevin noted that Laraine has a good idea, but he wasn't aware of it happening in Utah yet. He said he would follow up with some names in which we could get more information about this type of project.

Paul noted that the ICC hearings were public and recorded and can be found on the website. He will pass that information along to the group if he finds it.

Kevin then turned the conversation over to expedited permitting. He noted that SLC has this type of program. Normal waiting times are six to eight weeks. Their goal is to get energy efficient projects permitted in 2 weeks instead.

- Paul noted that Logan is already at a 2 week period.
- Laraine noted that we should look into changing permitting fees.
- Kevin asked if any other type of incentive for green building has been discussed.
- Paul noted that we have talked a little bit about giving back a portion of the fees after they have gone through the permitting process and completed the energy efficient codes. But, we'd have to increase all fees to make up for the loss in revenue.

Charles asked a question regarding the solar incentive and whether Logan City would consider giving incentives for up to a 100 mW solar system.

- Emily noted that the largest on the record is 15kW for commercial – so a \$30K rebate
- Kevin noted that federal is 20% of the entire system (no cap), sat is 20% also, but it has a cap on the size as well. Not much more information about commercial solar incentives on the federal and state level.
- Jeff mentioned something about utility scale PV programs.

Kevin wrapped up the discussion with a quick overview of federal stimulus monies and gave us some suggestions of programs that we might want to enter into in order to be eligible for this money. Kevin suggested that we call Elise about this program and told us that they are debating this in the US Senate right now.

The next general meeting will be at 9:00 am on March 4, 2009 in the Classroom at the Environmental Center.

Minutes submitted by: Emily Malik

Approved by: