



ENERGY EFFICIENCY WORKING GROUP TERMS OF REFERENCE

Background

Many local governments in British Columbia have expressed an interest in energy efficiency requirements for buildings that go beyond the requirements in the BC Building Code.

The recently approved *Building Act* gives the Province sole authority to establish technical building standards, including energy efficiency requirements. Existing bylaws will have a transition period of two years, after the *Building Act* comes into force, in which to achieve uniformity with the BC Building Code.

Under the *Building Act*, local governments may apply to the Province for a variation that would allow them to pursue a level of performance that is higher than the building code through a special regulation. However, the Province also intends to increase the level of consistency in building regulations throughout British Columbia. Having each jurisdiction apply to implement unique requirements would not achieve this outcome. For this reason, the Building and Safety Standards Branch is establishing stakeholder working groups on topics such as residential fire sprinklers and energy efficiency so that jurisdictions that wish to pursue building requirements beyond the BC Building Code can collaborate on the development of a single regime that can apply to any local government that chooses to sign-on.

Purpose of the Energy Efficiency Working Group

The Building and Safety Standards Branch is establishing the Energy Efficiency Working Group to balance the need for more consistency in building requirements in British Columbia with an interest in improved energy efficiency of buildings and the reduction of GHG emissions.

The Energy Efficiency Working Group will:

- build on the work of the Provincial Advisory Committee on Energy Efficiency, and the objectives and recommendations included in the June 2015 report: *Advanced Energy Efficiency Requirements for Buildings in BC*;
- focus on Part 3 buildings and non-residential Part 9 buildings, as defined in the BC Building Code;
- identify and consider the reasons for development of local government energy efficiency requirements that go beyond the BC Building Code;
- review and consider applicable research and background material related to energy efficiency in buildings;
- consider cost-benefit analysis from a variety of perspectives;
- consider approaches and practices in other jurisdictions; and
- develop recommendations that would empower participating jurisdictions to establish above-code energy efficiency requirements for consideration by the Minister responsible.



Membership and Structure of the Energy Efficiency Working Group

Working Group

The following criteria have been considered in determining participation in the Energy Efficiency Working Group:

- the representation from groups or sectors with a direct stake in the outcome of the process;
- members must have knowledge and experience that will contribute to the working group;
- the membership should be structured to ensure a balance of perspectives and interests; and
- members must be willing and able to make the commitment of time required to see the project through to completion, including delegating alternates to attend meetings in absence of a primary member.

The stakeholder groups identified for voting membership in the Energy Efficiency Working Group include:

1. Local Government Management Association of BC
2. Union of British Columbia Municipalities
3. City of Vancouver
4. Urban Development Institute
5. Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of BC
6. Architectural Institute of BC
7. International Building Performance Simulation Association
8. BC Hydro
9. Fortis BC
10. The Province of British Columbia

The Energy Efficiency Working Group will be chaired by the Building and Safety Standards Branch and facilitated by an independent facilitator. The chair will report periodically on the progress of the working group to the Assistant Deputy Minister of the Office of Housing and Construction Standards.

Observers or substitute members of the working group may be permitted to monitor working group meetings by phone at the discretion of the chair.

In the event that stakeholders choose to form energy efficiency sub-committees, voting members may present the findings of these committees at working group meetings, provided they fit directly into the scope of the Energy Efficiency Working Group.



Other stakeholders may be called upon to respond to requests for information and review and comment on the working group's proposed directions and recommendations and the final draft of any materials developed. These stakeholders may also be invited to attend working group meetings, when deemed necessary.

Review Committee

The Building and Safety Standards Branch will establish a review committee to provide feedback on the work of the Energy Efficiency Working Group. This review committee will not have a voting role in the working group but may be asked to contribute information or expertise to the working group. The review committee will submit feedback to the working group through the chair of the working group. The review committee will include experts from industry, government and academia who may have valuable perspectives on the work of the working group but are not directly impacted by the outcomes of the working group.

Member Responsibilities

Working group members will be expected to:

- represent the interests of their organizations or professions to the best of their ability;
- attend scheduled meetings, beginning Fall 2015, and be responsible for their own travel costs (note that meetings will be in the greater Vancouver area and a teleconference option will be available);
- before each meeting, review any background information and draft documents that were distributed;
- during each meeting, participate in discussions of background information and draft documents;
- respond to requests for information from the chair;
- as far as it is feasible, obtain input from their organizations and communicate the results to the working group;
- share relevant and related research where appropriate; and
- provide advice on any further consultations that may be useful.

A copy of the meeting notes will be issued after each meeting. Any primary member who is unable to attend a meeting, or delegate an alternate may contact the chair for more information.



Confidentiality Energy Efficiency Working Group

All members are encouraged to discuss related subject matter with colleagues within their own organizations or professional associations. The chair may make public statements about the work of the working group. However, members are asked to not make public statements until such time as the working group's recommendations are submitted to the Minister responsible.

Anticipated Result from the Energy Efficiency Working Group

The anticipated result from the Energy Efficiency Working Group is a set of recommendations for submission to the Minister Responsible for Housing. These recommendations may include a request for variation from the Building Code that would allow participating jurisdictions to apply energy efficiency requirements for Part 3 buildings and non-residential Part 9 buildings that surpass the BC Building Code.

Every effort will be made for the working group to reach consensus on the recommendations. If members of an organization strongly disagree with specific recommendations, the Minister will be informed of the organization's objection.

Timeframe and Location

It is anticipated that the working group will meet six to eight times starting in early September 2015. Meetings will be about 3 hours long, and will be a combination of face-to-face and teleconferencing or videoconferencing. Refreshments and a light lunch will be provided for meeting participants.