



NORTHEAST ENERGY EFFICIENCY PARTNERSHIPS
Accelerating Energy Efficiency

HOW TO FIND SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS FOR ENERGY CODES LEGISLATION

PRESENTED BY

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TO DOE ENERGY CODES 2011

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NORTHEAST ENERGY EFFICIENCY PARTNERSHIPS

“Accelerating Energy Efficiency”



MISSION

Accelerate the efficient use of energy in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic Regions

APPROACH

Overcome barriers to efficiency through
Collaboration, Education & Advocacy



VISION

Transform the way we think about
and use energy in the world around us.

OUR OBJECTIVES



- ✓ Provide you with some general points about how to identify and gain support from state legislators on building energy codes related bills
- ✓ Relate an example from practical experiences of the same in a Northeast state

THE GENERAL MESSAGES ARE...

- Code itself is a technical, specialized subject -
 - We can't and shouldn't expect most state legislators to understand the intricacies of it

“Policymakers feel stupid when we talk to them about codes.”

*- Maureen Guttman
PA Dept. of Environmental Protection*

- So, remember... it's not about the 'code' as an ends in itself, but a means to an end
 - Climate change action
 - Consumer protection
 - Economic savings
 - Energy savings

PUTTING THAT INTO PRACTICE...



- Find legislators who are interested in:
 - Clean energy economic development
 - Climate change action
 - Air quality issues
 - Consumer protection
 - Low-income housing issues
 - Overall energy policy that values demand side measures

- Thus, tie code legislation to other measures for which code adoption/application provides a solution

FOR EXAMPLE...



- Massachusetts Green Communities Act (2008)
 - Landmark, 77-page clean energy bill, included a whole host of energy/environmental topics: efficiency, renewables, vehicles, facility siting, competitive supply, smart grid, etc.
 - Tucked on page 42 was a simple directive to code board:

“adopt and fully integrate the latest International Energy Conservation Code as part of the state building code, together with any more stringent energy-efficiency provisions that the board, in consultation with the department of energy resources, concludes are warranted. The energy provisions of the state building code shall be updated within 1 year of any revision to the International Energy Conservation Code.”

FOR EXAMPLE...



- Massachusetts Green Communities Act (2008)
 - Also directed code board to consult with energy office to “develop requirements and promulgate regulations as part of the state building code for the training and certification of city and town inspectors of buildings, building commissioners and local inspectors regarding the energy provisions of the state building code, and to require that all new construction and any major reconstruction, alteration or repair of residential and non-residential buildings pass inspection by inspectors who have been trained and certified, demonstrating full compliance with the energy provisions of the state building code.”

- The result:
 - Regular, statutorily required updates to state’ building energy code that at least match latest national model code
 - Enhanced training and education
 - Potentially additional compliance strategies, such as third-party inspection

SOME KEY THINGS TO REMEMBER...



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- ✓ Learn what the landscape is in your state capital
 - Identify who has an agenda/interest that synch with energy code adoption/deployment
 - Determine what existing legislative proposals would fit with a codes proposal
- ✓ Work with environmental/clean energy advocates
 - They have good working relationships with likely legislative sponsors/champions
- ✓ Once champion is identified and agrees, ask for his/her help recommending other sponsors
 - With whom does he/she have relationships, share common agendas, goals, objectives
 - Depending upon state, try to reach across the aisle

SOME KEY THINGS TO REMEMBER...



- ✓ Be respectful of the legislators' time and attention:
 - Make clear the link between broader environmental/clean energy policy and codes
 - Don't complicate matters: it's not the code that's being established, but the vehicle for adopting the code
- ✓ Enable them to address/overcome any obstacles they're likely to face:
 - Identify all potential issues - don't leave any surprises
 - Reach out on your own or through intermediaries to potential opponents to hear their concerns and address them
 - Run the numbers!
 - Many resources available to help provide analysis

SOME KEY THINGS TO REMEMBER...



- ✓ In today's 'anti-regulatory' environment, be prepared to relate the history of codes as a public welfare/health/safety/consumer mechanism
 - Building codes are a long-established practice
 - Code of Hammurabi (3000 B.C.) established builder liability for a home that collapsed
 - Established in U.S. in late 19th and early 20th century, demanded by insurance industry
 - Designed to protect public health, safety and general welfare
 - Energy added in mid-1970s to address 'general welfare' of energy crisis
 - Energy codes are extremely cost-effective

WHEN ALL ELSE FAILS, THE BOTTOM LINE...



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Building energy codes save money

- ✓ Moving to 2009 IECC (residential) would result in weighted average incremental cost of \$840.77 per new home.
- ✓ Average annual energy savings per home would be \$243.37
- ✓ Simple payback for homeowners in 3.45 years
- ✓ Amortized over a 30-year, 20 percent down payment loan, additional up-front cost on a mortgage, factoring in energy savings, would result in **net savings within the first year**

State	Weighted Avg. Incremental Cost	Median Energy Savings	Mortgage Payback (months)
Georgia	\$ 675.36	\$ 206.00	8
Massachusetts	\$ 910.99	\$ 200.50	10
North Dakota	\$ 903.79	\$ 343.00	8
Arizona	\$ 570.38	\$ 217.00	8



THANK YOU

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