



**ACT 151 BUILDING ENERGY
CODE WORKING GROUP
REPORT TO THE
VERMONT LEGISLATURE**

November 15, 2024

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Acknowledgements

This report was primarily authored by Zack Tyler and Richard Faesy of Energy Futures Group, but benefitted tremendously from the extensive research, input, discussions, suggestions, and drafting by the engaged Act 151 Building Energy Code Working Group (BECWG) members listed below in addition to those who testified and otherwise shared their expertise and information with the Committee.

Committee Members

Christopher Bray - VT Senate, BECSC Committee Chair

Scott Campbell - Vermont House of Representatives

Kelly Launder - Department of Public Service

Michael Desrochers - Department of Public Safety - Division of Fire Safety

Peter Tucker – Vermont Association of Realtors

Craig Peltier - Vermont Housing and Conservation Board

Matt Bushey - American Institute of Architects Vermont

Matt Sharpe - Efficiency Vermont

Richard Wobby - Association of General Contractors of Vermont

Jim Bradley - Vermont Builders and Remodelers Association

Chris Burns - Burlington Electric Department

Timothy Perrin - Vermont Gas Systems

Ted Brady - Vermont League of Cities and Towns

Jennifer Colin – Office of Professional Regulation

Chris Campany - Regional Planning Commission – Windham Regional Commission

List of Acronyms

Executive Summary

- Summary of charges and recommendations
 - Present dissenting opinions/comments separately

Introduction and Background

- Details on Act 151 legislation
- History and background from Act 47 legislation and working group

High-Level Updates and Progress Since Act 47 Building Energy Code Study Committee

- OPR developments
- EVT trainings
- DOE RECI grant activities
- EEU discussions
- DFS IRC working group, etc

Legislative Directive

- Charge #1: Recommend strategies and program to increase awareness of and compliance with RBES and CBES, including the use of appropriate certifications for contractors trained on the energy codes.
- Charge #2: Develop plans and recommendations for a potential transition to a comprehensive program for the RBES and CBES at the Division of Fire Safety, including potential funding sources.
- Charge #3: Consider whether or not the State should adopt a statewide building code.

Response to Legislative Directive

- Charge #1
 - Note about only including additional recommendations on top of Act 47 – status of Act 47 recommendations available in appendix
 - Additional recommendations for Charge #1
 - RBES/CBES database for buildings currently under DFS jurisdiction
 - Certification rulemaking in 2025
 - Focus some training efforts on home inspectors, real estate agents, and lenders
- Charge #2
 - Funding model research
 - TBD – results of 10/22 meeting
- Charge #3
 - DFS IRC working group
 - Open to stakeholder input

Vermont Act 151 Building Energy Code Working Group Report

- Pushing this charge into next year’s working group to give DFS working group ample time to consider the issues
 - A few of the items to address
 - Who is a design professional in the context of the IRC? How does this affect the plan review process?
 - What impact would adopting the IRC have on housing affordability?
 - IRC and associated efficiency standards don’t align with RBES – how is that handled?
 - How are conflicts between the ICC and NFPA handled? VT uses both.
 - Is the entire IRC adopted or just certain chapters?
 - Can the industry handle the sprinkler requirements associated with the IRC?
 - Can the market actually build to IRC standards? How is the contractor/inspection process managed?
 - Is inspection authority extended into single-family jurisdictions?

Recommendations

- Legislature Recommendations
 - TBD
- General Recommendations
 - TBD

Appendix – Act 47 Recommendations

- Detailed status update on the Act 47 recommendations