

# Building Energy Code Study Committee Report Outline

1. Executive Summary
2. Introduction to RBES/CBES and compliance
  - a. Explanation of energy code
    - i. Enabling legislation of RBES/CBES  
(<https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/30/002/00051>)
  - b. Explanation of need for addressing compliance
    - i. Could reference the Vermont Energy Code Compliance Report (from 2012).  
Could also reference the VT Code Compliance Recent Initiatives 12-5-13 document
  - c. Background on OPR builder registry
3. Background on Committee
  - a. Act 47
    - i. Three stated objectives in Act 47:
      1. Consider and recommend strategies to increase awareness of and compliance with the RBES and CBES, including the potential designation of the Division of Fire Safety (DFS) in the Department of Public Safety as the statewide authority having jurisdiction for administration, interpretation, and enforcement, in conjunction with DFS' existing jurisdiction, over building codes;
      2. Evaluate current cost-effectiveness analyses for the RBES and the CBES, whether they include or should include nonenergy benefits such as public health benefits and the cost of carbon, and how that impacts the affordability of housing projects and provide recommendations; and
      3. Assess how the building energy codes interact with the fire and building safety codes.
4. Purpose/ logistics of Committee
  - a. Six meetings. The first meeting was convened on July 14, 2023, and the final official meeting shall be held on or before October 31, 2023. Meeting minutes posted on PSD website
5. Committee members
  - a. List of committee members
  - b. List of Act 47 committee member requirements (or in an Appendix)
6. Possible strategies to increase awareness of and compliance with RBES and CBES (including but not limited to)
  - a. Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ)
  - b. Adopt statewide building code (IRC) for uniform reference
  - c. IT Systems for Compliance and Filing
  - d. OPR's Contractor Registry as a potential code compliance mechanism
    - i. Research from Sandy (email 8/30/23) on contractor complaints
  - e. Enforcement
  - f. Education and Training
  - g. Revenue to pay for initiatives to increase awareness and compliance

- h. Incentives and/or EEU involvement
  - i. Voluntary 3rd party certifications
  - j. Title impact
  - k. Full builder licensure (credentials or competency testing)
  - l. Home Energy Raters: inspect and certify projects
  - m. Existing certifications (LEED, NGBS, EnergyStar Home, Passive House)
  - n. Certificate of Occupancy
7. Evaluation of cost-effectiveness analysis for RBES and CBES
- a. Inclusion of nonenergy benefits such as public health benefits and the cost of carbon and impacts the affordability of housing projects
  - b. Recommendations of cost-effectiveness analysis methodology for RBES and CBES
8. Assess how the building energy codes interact with the fire and building safety codes (could be part of strategies to increase awareness of and compliance with RBES and CBES section)
9. Recommendations
- a. Specify if there is consensus on recommendations
    - i. If there's not full Committee agreement, dissenting opinions could be included here
  - b. Recommendations to whom
    - i. Legislature
    - ii. Others
  - c. Timeline of recommendations
  - d. Potential costs of the recommendations
10. Appendix
- a. Link to PSD website for: Committee meetings notes, pitches (could be a matrix of pitches), resources and research on other states, cost effectiveness PowerPoint