

Commercial Building Energy Labeling Working Group

Meeting Notes

2/14/2020

Attendees: Dan Edson (BGS), Mike Gifford (VGS), Mike Russom (BED), Craig Peltier (VHCB), Randy Drury (3E Thermal), Tim Heney, Geoff Wilcox (OEO), Mike Crowley (EVT), Kelly Launder (PSD), Keith Levenson (PSD), Keith Downes (Navigant)

Reviewed work of the CBELWG to date. (Keith D.)

Approval of Minutes from 1/10/20 meeting

- Approved by CBELWG without amendments

Expectations and Timeline for Final Product (Keith Levenson)

- Assume the Subcommittees will meet at least monthly between CBELWG meetings
- Use RBELWG Workplan as a template. Keith D. and Mike will fill in for CBELWG and send out to working group via email.

Report from Residential Building Energy Labeling Working Group (Mike Crowley)

- Send out member contact information for both working groups and members for subcommittees for coordination efforts.
- Mike provided comparison of RBELWG subcommittees
- Mike reviewed the VT energy profile/label
- Craig – how is this impacted by the definition in RBELWG for small multifamily (they will go up to 4 units).
- Portfolio Manager – generates EUI, and ranking depending on the building type.
- Mike R – Most jurisdictions have a square footage limit for Commercial benchmarking.
- Have a subcommittee dive further into definition.

Development of Scope, Deliverables, and Timeline for Subgroups

- **Subgroup 1** - Research Progress in other jurisdictions (Mike Russom)
 - IMT, DOE, and EPA have a lot of resources available
 - Spoke with EPA staff that will provide support to city and state benchmarking initiatives.
 - Other jurisdictions typically refer to benchmarking and transparency, rather than labeling and disclosure.
 - Most benchmarking initiatives are at the city level
 - DC – benchmark for energy and water use. Use ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager. Applies to private buildings over 50,000 and district-owned buildings over 10,000 sq. ft. Tenants must provide their landlord with select information on their energy and water consumption annually. PE verification every 5 years.
 - MA – Benchmark energy and water use. Applies to non-residential 50,000 sq. ft or more.

- Portland, ME – Applies to buildings that are over 5,000 sq. ft. PE verification every 5 years.
- NYC - Benchmark energy and water use. Applies to non-residential 50,000 or 25,000 gross sq. ft.
- Discussed sample labels for NYC and Chicago
- Elements of a successful building energy labeling initiative – entity to provide support, verification, transparency (disclosure), compliance (req. for reporting and penalties for not reporting), minimum performance standards, available energy efficiency program support.
- **Subgroup 2 - Building Assessors**
 - Have trades that already have certification requirements, can tap into that
 - To get a building ENERGY STAR certified, has to be approved by an architect or PE.
 - Can use EPA Portfolio Manager just need to have an account, no certification or training requirements.
 - RBELWG subcommittee discussed that tool should be widely accessible and not limited. Also discussed that there should be an appeal process available if someone disagrees with rating. (Keith L.)
 - What is appropriate level of certification to benchmark a building? Ideal would be someone who understands the science and has practical experience. (Keith D.)
 - Seems like it would be most palatable to allow for the lowest level of certification/experience to keep costs low (Craig P.)
 - Who would do QA? What is involvement of the EEU's?
 - Data input can probably be done by a non-certified person/entity and then checked by someone.
- **Subgroup 3 - Building Performance Reporting**
 - Kelly and Mike R. will also join this group
- **Subgroup 4 - Management**
 - How to address benchmarking/labeling impact on housing market and real estate industry in VT – literature review, consult with IMT, coordinate with Res Sub on the work they are doing on this.
 - Envision this group taking the information from the other groups and coming up with a mgt. plan.

Discussion / Next Steps

- Co-chairs will circulate schedule
- If want to send any research questions you want investigated, please send to Mike R.
- Subcommittees should elect a leader for the subgroup and meet at least once before next meeting, and have at least one item to discuss at next meeting (scope, draft recommendations, etc.)