

# Commercial Building Energy Standards (RBES) Update Stakeholder Meeting

## Q&A

March 14, 2014

- 1. Q: A maximum above grade wall percentage of fenestration is very restrictive to quality architecture. This should be an energy tradeoff option for instances where a large area of glass might be important architecturally.**

A: ASHRAE 90.1, which is an acceptable compliance path for CBES, does allow for an envelope tradeoff option, which means projects can have a higher window-to-wall ratio. For the 2014 CBES, we will examine a way to incorporate a trade-off directly on the window-wall ratio into the CBES language, so 90.1 is not the only option for users.

- 2. Q: Is it true that the stretch code will become the base code requirement by 1/1/15?**

A: No. The stretch code will be an option for towns/jurisdictions to adopt as their base code. The stretch code also could be referenced by ACT 250 as the “best available technology,” effectively making the stretch code the required baseline for ACT 250 commercial projects.

- 3. Q: Are there any new code considerations for compost toilet or gray water system usage? Ease of compost and gray water permitting would encourage greater usage which also impacts overall energy usage. Currently, designers shy away because of all of the ANR permitting requirements.**

A: Not currently. The current CBES energy code does not cover waste water or waste water recovery (outside of drain hot water recovery), so the PSD will consult with other departments to determine if/how the energy code interacts with these other regulatory concerns.