

**Residential Building Energy Labeling Working Group**  
**Meeting Notes**  
**5/14/20**

**Attendees:** Leslie Badger (EVT); Tiana Smith (VGS), Kelly Launder (PSD); Chris Gordon (EVT); Melanie Paskevich (NWWVT); Craig Peltier (VHCB); Malcolm Gray (BPPA); Martha Lange (Century 21 Jack Associates); Richard Faesy (EFG); Keith Levenson (PSD); Geoff Wilcox (OEO); Tom Lyle (BED); Mike Russom (BED)

- **Review/approve meeting minutes**
  - Richard Faesy moved to approve the meeting minutes from April, Craig Peltier seconded. Approved by voice vote.
  
- **Presentation from Assessor Subcommittee** (Chris West)
  - Professional vs. Homeowner input
    - Made list of who might be included as professional and distinguished who may need or not need training to complete energy profile.
    - Should maintain a list of who is certified to provide profile (after receiving appropriate training)
    - Training should be standardized and provided by a centralized group.
  - Would like a portal or some way that a professional would be identified. Would like to see a way for certified professionals to be able to check that component when inputting a profile if they are on a certified list. Could provide a code that would be inputted.
    - Chris G: [Conv. With Veronique - NEEP] Where is list of professional assessors housed? Kelly: how does tool know whether inputs are professional. What about confidentiality of WAP customers. Geoff Wilcox will check with his legal people.
    - Chris W: feel strongly that only authorized/certified people can prof verify a label.
    - Chris G: question is about auditing program that produces the label. KL that's fine except for WAP. Confidentiality issue.
    - Richard: should have drop down list of certifications but not company names. Liability associated with putting your name on the label. Not a trivial thing to host and maintain a database of authorized assessors.
  - Any homeowner who receives an energy audit should also receive a profile.
  - QA, those who provide should have certification more stringent than for profile entry.
    - Leslie: need to clarify what is meant by QA. Data integrity? For homeowner verified or professional verifier?
    - Spot checks on accuracy of data, maybe more for homeowner inputs than that which is professionally entered.
      - Chris G: What would that look like? Not sure if necessary as the point of labeling as homeowner input, is to know that they inputted to the best of their ability.
    - If municipality has more stringent/other requirements they would need to address
  - Homeowner disputes/Appeal process
    - Still need to discuss
  - Other Discussion
    - Melanie – a lot of crossover between groups, how will this get resolved?
  
- **Subcommittees updates** (Subcommittee Leads)

- Labeling *Impact Subcommittee* – Report by Richard Faesy
  - Developed 12 question realtor survey to ask about existing pamphlet, SPIR (including recent proposed revisions), and Energy Profile. Also, general questions on how energy is received by buyers and sellers. Still needs to be approved by the Board. Aiming to have it out and responses back by end of the month.
  - Kelly: did Mike Crowley reach out about C&I questions? Richard: No. Kelly: is this going out to commercial realtors? Martha: it is going out to whole membership. Richard: can we add question about realtor's focus - res or Commercial. Martha: should be able to do that.
  - Looking at what studies are out there and what they've shown as far as impact.
- *Scores & Reporting Subcommittee* – Report by Leslie Badger
  - Sent updated recommendations based on comments at last meeting to subcommittee members.
  - Ability to store energy estimator profile and inputs into HELIX – have confirmed this could be done.
  - Costs – NEEP is still working on updated costs for HELIX and Clearly Energy
- *Label and Rating Tool Subcommittee* – Report by Chris Gordon
  - How to handle back-up heating fuel – right now customers can list that they have a backup heating system and it will show up on the label, but it doesn't impact cost estimates. Plan is to allow the listing of a back-up system and to indicate the percent of the home heating done by the secondary heating.
    - Would be good to have input for %age of heating provided by backup/primary system. Richard: both systems would show up on label? Chris G: yes but E costs is another thing
    - Tom: how would that be calculated? How would that be handled for heat pumps for costs? It would need to be clear that this is an estimate, not a hard number.
    - Chris G: keep it fairly broad - What percentage of the heat is provided by system A, System B? Craig: would be difficult for a homeowner to estimate this. Chris G: there will be an 'I don't know' option.
    - Leslie: I took away from the meeting with Veronique that it would be a question about square footage rather than heat load. Richard: that may be easier to understand for a homeowner. Chris G: When Veronique has a proposal on how to deal with this, we will share with the group.
  - Discussing having an introductory video that people can view before entering data. Also possibly having question mark that can hover over to get more information.
    - Richard: that will definitely help. Melanie: no average person will be anywhere close to understanding this. Kelly and Leslie: We will have a "don't know" fail safe. That will help. Chris G: to ML: if you have a better way to frame this question, let us know.
- **Montpelier Update** (Richard Faesy)
  - City council on hiatus because of pandemic. If there is an urgent need then committees can meet.
  - Have identified a potential grant opportunity that they are currently exploring
  - Ordinance language is still in process.
  - May have council meeting in June or July to introduce ordinance language and to have a tour of the energy estimator.

- Due to go into effect Jan. 2021.

**Next Steps:**

Next agenda: Kelly will distribute draft report outline to working group for review and comments prior to next meeting. Discuss and finalize at next meeting. Report out from Labeling Impact Subcommittee.