

Achieving Consensus in Kansas City

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Situation

- Missouri and Kansas are both “Home Rule” states. No statewide code. Local jurisdiction make the decision.
- Kansas City MO Interested in moving code forward—when process started, the city was enforcing the 2006 IECC
- Faced with the “code shopping” problem.

MARC

Mid America Regional Council:

Planning agency covering 8 counties (4 in Missouri and 4 in Kansas) and over 100 cities.

MARC functioned as a neutral referee for this effort (many stakeholders involved...not all in agreement)

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Preparation

- **MARC Developed a Report that Surveyed the Energy Code Landscape in the Kansas City Area.**
- **Found wide variation in level of code adoption.**
- **Found significant potential for savings.**

Convening Stakeholder Meetings

- Key to effort was in bringing stakeholders together.
- Starts to address “code shopping” issue if all the cities in the region are heading in the same direction.
- First meeting entailed a discussion of the requirements of the 2012 IECC and how it compared to the KC code at the time.

Stakeholders

- **Over 120 People Participated Representing:**
 - 25 cities and counties
 - Energy Advocates
 - Sustainability Offices
 - Utilities
 - Universities
 - Energy Services Companies
 - Federal Agencies
 - National Code Advocates
 - Neighborhood Associations
 - Planning Commission
 - Homebuilder Associations
 - Mechanical Engineering Firms
 - Architects
 - Commercial Construction Firms
 - HVAC Contractors
 - Individual Homebuilders

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Subsequent Meetings

- Subsequent meetings focused on concerns by various stakeholders and a search for solutions.
- Area homebuilder association raised the concern of increasing costs.
- MARC moderated effort to get information on actual costs and benefits that would result from adoption of 2012 IECC.
- Parallel effort going on across the border in Kansas.....

Overland Park

- Overland Park was conducting a parallel effort.
- Developed a code halfway in stringency between the 2009 and 2012 IECC.
- Stakeholders in Kansas City effort following OP effort closely.

End Game

After spending significant time educating stakeholders, most everyone understood what OP accomplished.

Consequently, consensus was reached reasonably quickly on adopting the OP code. All sides, including homebuilders sent in letters of support.

Achieving consensus is important because

Left everyone with a good feeling on the process

Work remains after code adoption and all parties need to continue to contribute.

Additional work remains to bring other jurisdictions in the KC area (in both Missouri and Kansas) to adopt the KC/OP energy code.

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