



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
**OFFICE OF
ENERGY RESOURCES**

Thursday, December 7, 2017
5:00 - 7:00 PM

Department of Administration, Conference Room B, 2nd Floor
One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02908

Attendees: Kat Burnham, Peter Friedrichs, Brian McCowan, Becca Trietch, Carrie Gill

Meeting Minutes:

Meeting started at 5:15PM

Becca Trietch, Chief Program Development, RI Office of Energy Resources (OER), introduced the meeting and facilitated a round robin introduction.

Ms. Trietch then described the development process used to draft the proposed Rhode Island Residential Stretch Code. Brian McCowan, Senior Vice President of Technology and Development, Energy & Resource Solutions (ERS), gave an overview of the proposed Rhode Island Residential Stretch Code document. Both presenters used a PowerPoint presentation (the presentation is now available at the following URL: <http://www.energy.ri.gov/policies-programs/lead-by-example/case-studies/stretch-code-development.php>).

Questions/Comments Received

Ms. Kat Burnham, Energy Program Manager at People's Power and Light, asked the following questions. Ms Trietch and Mr. McCowan's responses are shown after each question.

1. Ms. Burnham asked if there was anything in the Stretch Code that would prevent the requirements from being weakened overtime. She specifically referenced the fact that federal programs which are used by the Stretch Code document could change or roll backwards.
 - a. Ms. Trietch and Mr. McCowan assured her that the intent was to reference specific versions of the federal programs. They will review the document to ensure that language is imbedded that prevents the use of weaker program requirements.
2. In reviewing the Electric Vehicle (EV)-ready and solar-ready requirements, Ms. Burnham was reminded that current solar system size requirements in Rhode Island prevent homeowners from over-sizing their systems. Therefore, if they purchase an EV after installing solar, the system size if often not appropriate. She wondered if there was anything in the stretch code to address this problem.
 - a. Ms. Trietch and Mr. McCowan stated that there was nothing in the code to address this issue, but that the Office of Energy Resources is aware of this problem and is hopeful that a solution can be found in the future.
3. Ms. Burnham asked how participants for the stretch code development committee were found.
 - a. Ms. Trietch explained that those required by Executive Order 15-17 to be included were invited to participate in the monthly meetings. In addition, she reached out to the Rhode Island Builders Association to recruit other participants such as builders and contractors.
 - b. To build on this question, Ms. Burnham then asked if there were enough builders and contractors in the working group. Did OER feel like this important group of stakeholders was well represented?

Mr. Peter Friedrichs, Director of the City of Central Falls Department of Planning and Economic Development, asked if any funding or technical assistance will be provided to Municipalities interested in using the stretch code. Ms. Trietch responded that because the stretch code will only be used on a voluntary basis, no additional funds have been allocated to support its use. However, National Grid does provide trainings for code officials and will be creating trainings in 2018 about the Residential Stretch Code. In addition, OER is working closely with the Building Code Commission to make sure that the process for approving a stretch code compliant home will be simple and similar to the process used by code officials for base code compliance.

Ms. Trietch asked if there were any other questions or comments from the audience. Hearing none she adjourned the meeting.