Energy Efficiency Work Group – August 14 & 17, 2018

In Attendance:

Voting Members

Joseph Little
Dan Givens
Donna Robertson
Jimmy Fox
John Davies

Facilitation Team

Lee Hazen
Lisa Baraff
Ron Johnson
Ross Adkins

Tuesday, August 14

EE Brown Bag Lunch – presentation by Nathan Wiltse, Cold Climate Housing Research Center

- City of Fairbanks adopted IECC code 2015
- City of North Pole adopted IECC code 2009 (little to no enforcement)
- Most of the housing stock in the area were built in the 70s/80s and are at 2 star plus and 3 star plus ratings
- New construction is already pretty energy efficient, should target the older homes
- Two ways energy efficiency programs could go
  - One: target specific measures/retrofits
  - Two: Allow residents to do whatever measures increase their houses rating
- A targeted program on solid fuel burning devices, possibly starting at NOASH residents, would be more effective in reducing PM2.5

Friday, August 17

Work Group Discussion

- Recap brown bag lunch discussion
- Focus our energy existing housing
  - Bigger Bang than new construction (delay in impact, plus already more energy efficient)
- New construction
  - BEES – standard 4.5-5 stars to qualify for AHFC loan
    - City of Fairbanks building code close to BEES
    - 2/3 new construction meets BEES (voluntary by builders or reg by bank)
  - North Pole Building Code
    - Not well known
    - Not enforced
    - Only in City of North Pole
  - Commercial Buildings
    - State of Alaska
    - Mostly mechanical + safety
  - Schools
    - DEED has energy standards for schools
- Target existing housing stock
  - Lots of opportunity
    - AK warm data
- Most of Fairbanks 2-3 star homes
  - HER/Wx program effectiveness
    - 32% energy savings
    - HER: $11k cost ($3k from homeowner)
    - Wx program allowed up to $30k/home included safety measures
    - Wx program continues with federal dollars (low income only)
    - HER discontinued. AHFC says could continue in targeted fashion
  - Could do better than 30% if program were targeted.
    - Adding insulation more effective than windows
    - 30% energy savings from just insulating crawl-space wall
    - Double benefit from targeting low income: More likely to burn wood
  - Targeting: Need to put though into prioritization
    - Targeted EE where most needed + grow it out
    - NOASH, Hotspots, Solid fuel
    - Apartment buildings with outside boiler?
    - Not rule out any retrofits (e.g. windows)
    - Talk with Interior Weatherization: Could they target hotspots under existing program?
  - Not a Control Measure
    - Voluntary – doesn’t count for [SIP]
    - If we put dedicated funding in mil rat can it be a Control Measure?
    - Long term benefits from improving energy efficiency
  - Funding
    - Use targeted air shed grants?
    - Can investment in Wx program and count as offset for point sources?
  - Education
    - Education to NOASH include info on Wx programs they may qualify for
    - Encourage smaller homes not to heat whole home (e.g. empty bedrooms)
  - Saturation study
    - Saturation Study: 2 miles wide x 5 miles long
    - 150 NOASH waivers (How many total NOASH?)