

Energy Efficiency Retrofit Training and Certification Efforts in Ontario

Summary of March 10th, 2020 Meeting

Goal of the meeting was to gather input from participants on:

- What programs and training offerings each of us were advancing
- What value we may see from our own perspective as well as from the collective value for Ontario
- Whether people would like to advance a network to advance coordination; and
- Who else we should reach out to if there is interest in advancing such a network.

Andy Cockburn from NAIMA

- NAIMA is advancing training and certification programs for:
- Insulation training;
- Air Sealing and Tightness; and
- Flood Mitigation Training focused on what to do re: insulation and basement flooding. (targeted at renovators and homeowners).

Tom Davis from Fanshawe College

- Professor at Fanshawe's School of Building Technology
- Working with the federal government to better understand what is required to get us to deep energy reductions (in the range of 70% reductions) and Net Zero
- Strong focus on data and modelling
- Understanding what will be required re pre-fab and building cladding and payback
- Also working with City of London on social housing retrofits
- Also working with heat pump manufacturers to develop right sized heat pumps (electrical, natural gas and hybrid) to be a better fit for the heating and cooling needs of buildings in the Passive House

Kirk Johnson from Humber College

- Capacity building efforts for different stakeholders including:
- Homeowners through their HERO 2 hour program;
- HEAT program geared towards Community and Municipal Stakeholders which is a 2 day retrofit technical and Engagement Skills;
- EA Boot camp for Energy Advisors 5 day program.

Gabriella Kalapos from Clean Air Partnership (CAP)

- CAP is a charitable environmental organization whose mandate is to help municipalities undertake clean air and climate change actions
- We have been working with municipalities to advance Home Energy Retrofit programs and have heard from municipalities that these programs are too costly to run and that there is a need for a 3rd party who can deliver this on behalf of municipalities in order to develop a program that is effective and benefits from some efficiency of scale;

- Working to develop a consortium (IESO, AMO, HRAI, CAP, City of Toronto) to be a possible 3rd party for municipalities;
- The consortium would not be a turnkey program (i.e. the homeowner would be responsible for selecting their contractor (s), there would be customer hand holding through a concierge as well as municipal handholding to streamline the municipal and customer responsibilities;
- Advancing a contractor, renovator and training network was thought to be something that would be of value hence our interest in helping to build/facilitate such a network.

Action Items from Today's Call:

- Gaby will reach out to ZEBx team in Vancouver to get them to share what they are doing and lessons learned and next steps.
- Reach out to BC Housing. Andy to reach out and do an introduction between BC Housing and CAP
- CAP to share information with team on National Building Code and where it is going and consultation process
- It is unlikely that the route BC is using with regards to requiring contractors and renovators to undertake training would be able to be implemented in Ontario in the shorter term but it would be good to learn from BC experience to help inform opportunities for contractor requirements/training/certification requirements for an Ontario Energy Retrofit Program (to be considered as a requirement of contractor pre-approval)
- There is also interest in working to advance home energy labeling (not at the beginning but as a future to do that would drive uptake and education and literacy, and increase the value proposition of energy retrofits in the resale market
- Reach out to Mohawk College (Andy has a contact); Seneca (Gaby has a contact); Algonquin Jessica DeVries (Andy can do an introduction); Laurentian (Andy has a contact); University of Windsor (Gaby has a contact); Bill Ferrera from BuildForce Canada (Tom has contact)
- Gaby will set up monthly meetings via webinar and sent out log in and calendar invites
- All share the invitation with others that you think would be interested in participating in such a network
- Meetings will be scheduled on Tuesday morning once a month from 10 am – 11:30 for now (subject to change when schedules change). CAP will organize webinar and send out invite to network participants. All are encouraged to think of others who would be good to reach out to and reach out to them or to let Gaby from CAP know;
- These meetings would serve to develop a scan of who the players are and what each of them are doing;
- These meeting would be a good time for each of the payers to share more information on what they are doing and plan to do;
- Would be good to use those meetings to develop a scan to set up a matrix of players and actions and programs (Certifications/Courses/Training Offerings/Target Audiences/etc.)
- CAP will development and maintain a contact sheet to keep track of network participants. Any suggestions for additional appropriate participants should be reached out to. Can cc Gaby so that I can add them to the contact list.
- Anything missing or wrong?