

# EAQAC Minutes

May 2, 2012

Present: Paul Bubbosh, Melitta Carter, Bernie Bloom, Ken Cantor, Eric Coffman, Steve Gibb, Stephen Shaw, Ed Barbour, Jim McDonnell,

Absent: Tim Whitehouse, Aaron Cutler, Sam Biondo, Jody Foster, Betsy O'Brian

April minutes were amended and approved.

## **Continuing Issues:**

- With the assistance of Steve Shaw and Melitta Carter, Bernie Bloom prepared and presented testimony to a DPS hearing on 18 April, 2012 regarding proposed IECC and IRC Codes that are up for adoption. One other group, comprised of building contractors, also testified. A DPS decision on whether to accept the proposed codes, or a modification thereof, is expected before June.
- Following discussion on a draft document at our last meeting, Paul Bubbosh prepared and presented a finalized document version to the County Committee Evaluation Review Board (CERB) describing the work, legislative authority, accomplishments, and justification for continuing the EAQAC. This was in response to Bill 32-11 that established a Committee Evaluation Review Board (CERB) to look at the effectiveness of County committees.

## **Commercial and Multi-Family Building Study**

Bill Prindle of ICF International presented preliminary results from an ongoing study of commercial and multi-family buildings (CMFB), with the background goal of obtaining a 25% reduction in energy use from CMFB by 2020. The primary focus of Prindle's powerpoint presentation was on results of the modeling study and implications for the ability to achieve the stated goal given implementation of policies from a package prepared by ICF. Twenty percent of buildings account for seventy percent of net square footage, so the focus has been on data from the larger buildings in the mix. The wide-ranging discussion in the Committee discussion considered the following questions and items, among others:

- What are reasonable economic and square footage annual growth assumptions in the models?

- Uncertainties were expressed of the relevance or effectiveness of some of the policy options.
- How can the effect of various policies be modeled?
- Is a 25% reduction in net energy use realistic? Should we be thinking about lowering the goal, or extending the time period, for example to 15, not 10, years?
- Modeling is more secure when existing utility programs from other states are incorporated.
- Can confidence bounds / uncertainty estimates be presented around modeling results?
- Energy improvement of 25% may be unrealistic. An effective approach might be to lower expectations and develop further a few policies of high potential rather than to implement all policies in the package.
- To what extent was cost-benefit analysis incorporated into the modeling and overall study?
- While a goal of 25% energy reduction by 2020 may not be achievable, it could be valuable to have as a target.
- What could be published on the outcome of the effort so that other communities and states could benefit from Montgomery County's experience?
- Incentives should be provided to owners. Incentives that are split between owner and tenant often result in reduced motivation to improve efficiency.

A draft report is expected to be released for a 30-day comment period by early June.

**Action Items:**

1. EAQAC members are invited to submit the names of potential new Committee members, with a preference for new women members. There are three open positions.
2. Comments are invited on the ICF draft report as soon as it is released.