

**Intergovernmental Green Building Group (IGBG) Meeting**  
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments  
777 North Capitol Street, NE, Washington, DC 20002

December 13, 2007

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon

**Draft Meeting Highlights**

**“Promoting cooperation on green building issues in the  
Metropolitan Washington region”**

**In attendance:**

Cameron Duncan (MNCPRC)  
Brett Kaplan (GWU)  
Stella Tarnay (Arlington)  
Noel Kaplan (Fairfax County)  
Dawn Dhavale (Fairfax County)  
MonaCheri McCoy (DC)  
Beverly Warfield, Prince George’s County)  
Nicole Steele (Loudoun County)  
William Marsh (Loudoun County)  
Annette Osso (VSBN)  
David Bowers (Enterprise)  
Patty Rose (GreenHome)  
Cliff Majersik (IMT)  
Jay Hall (USGBC)  
Paivi Spoon (Prince George’s County)  
Brooke Ransom (NAHB)  
Emily English (NAHB)  
Barry Weise (DC)  
Chris Van Arsdale  
Erica Bannerman (Alexandria)  
David Cooperman  
Alem Zewoldai (Alexandria)  
Pavi Spoon (Prince George’s County)  
Joan Kelsch (Arlington)  
George Nichols (COG)  
Leah Boggs (COG)  
Stuart Freudberg (COG)  
Naomi Friedman (COG)  
Dale Medearis (NVRC)  
Cameron Duncan (Prince George’s County)

**1. Overview Issues and Updates**

- a. COG Board approved the resolution and accepted the green building report prepared by IGBG. Thanks to all who made this possible!!
- b. IGBG will not host a green building conference, but will host various educational events, symposia, training, etc throughout the year, in conjunction with other established programs where possible.
- c. Next meeting (January 10) will be on Greening the Codes. We will also start to discuss how we will tackle the green home issue.
- d. Other issues for IGBG to focus on include Existing Buildings.

## 2. Presentations on Green Home Rating Systems

- a. Enterprise Green Communities, David Bowers  
[www.enterprisecommunity.org](http://www.enterprisecommunity.org)  
 Green Home program for affordable housing. Partnering with USGBC and aligned with LEED. Enterprise has more mandatory points than LEED does. Green Communities is self certifying (no third party verification. Criteria developed in 2004. Mandatory elements in seven of the eight categories which includes: integrated design process; location and neighborhood fabric; site; water conservation; energy conservation; materials and resources; healthy living environment; and operations and management.
- b. EarthCraft, Annette Osso, Virginia Sustainable Building Network  
[www.Earthcraftvirginia.org](http://www.Earthcraftvirginia.org)  
 Piloted the project in Charlottesville. Not being used actively in Northern Virginia at this time. Includes training, specific standards (including Energy Star), and third party verification. 150 points must be achieved, half of which must be energy efficiency points (or Energy Star rating). Checklist and on-site inspections.
- c. LEED for Homes, Jay Hall, USGBC  
[www.usgbc.org/leed/homes](http://www.usgbc.org/leed/homes)  
 The number of points changes based on home size (smaller homes have to achieve fewer points). Designed for the top of the market. Uses Energy Star. Partnering with other green home programs and Home Depot Foundation. Third party verification being set up by region. Documentation involves three forms.
- d. NAHB Green Home Standard, Emily English, NAHB  
[www.nahb.org](http://www.nahb.org); [www.nahbrc.org](http://www.nahbrc.org)  
 Voluntary program through local homebuilders associations. Working on ANSI accreditation. Third party verification plus documentation. Will launch in February 2008. Online scorecard and verified through local providers. NAHB certification program for professionals. Mandatory portions of standard are based on code.

Jay Hall noted that comparing the four systems is difficult. Programs are generally similar. Differences include how many measures are mandatory and how much is required to get certified.

Third party verification is important and must be consistent.

NAHB is doing a study on how much it costs to certify using different rating systems. Emily English will provide website in January 2008.

NAHB is concerned about the increased cost of going green. Costs are difficult to assess because some builders start measuring improvement based on Code and so it costs a lot to meet the green certification. Others have a higher standard so it doesn't cost as much to make the increase to green certified.

We need to collaborate with COG's Affordable Housing Program.

### 3. Updates

- a. Fairfax County has a new green building policy. Noel Kaplan forwarded information to IGBG with the specifics
- b. Prince George's County has an Executive Order and a new green building policy as well. Paive Spoon provided a handout
- c. Loudoun County is working on a green policy.
- d. Stella Tarnay will update the local government matrix outlining all green building programs in the region.
- e. There are several jobs open in local government with a green building/sustainability focus. It is very difficult to find qualified people for these positions. There is a need for more knowledgeable experts in the region and a common vocabulary for green collar jobs.
- f. Cliff Majersik noted that he is working on various "green code" issues in DC and Montgomery County. For those interested in receiving email updates, please contact Cliff at [cliff@imt.org](mailto:cliff@imt.org). More information is available at [www.imt.org/codes](http://www.imt.org/codes).

*Additional websites noted:*

[www.regreenprogram.org](http://www.regreenprogram.org)  
[www.greenhomeguide.org](http://www.greenhomeguide.org)

### **Next Meeting and Adjournment**

The next IGBG meeting is scheduled for January 10, 2008 from 10 am to 12 noon.

