

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

June 12, 2008
12:00 Noon to 2:00 pm

Draft Meeting Highlights

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

In attendance:

Joan Kelsch (Arlington), Committee Chair*
Stella Tarnay (District of Columbia)
MonaCheri McCoy (District of Columbia)
Noel Kaplan(Fairfax County)
Tom Mawson (USGBC-NCR)
William Marsh (Loudoun County)
Nicole Steele (Loudoun County))
Cliff Majersik (Institute for Market Transformation)
Stuart Freudberg (MWCOG)
Donna Crowe (Bradley Avant Rose and White LLP)
Dale Medearis (NVRC)
Leah Boggs (COG)
Catherine Kendig (District of Columbia)
Paivi Spoon (Prince George’s County)
Emma Hetnor (District of Columbia)
Susan Riley (District of Columbia)
Kinga Porst (USGBC-NCR/Advocacy Committee – Johnson Controls)

1. Discussion of FY09 Program and Priorities

Leah Boggs provided a summary of key elements of IGBG’s FY09 Work Program. It is likely that IGBG may become a subcommittee of a newly created COG Energy and Climate change Committee as follows:

- Program development and Implementation of GB Recommendations
 - Evaluate Green Building Rating systems for
 - Residential (Brett Kaplan’s report, GreenSpace Resource Center)
 - Schools (involve Anja, Fall USGBC green schools meeting)
 - Existing buildings
 - Provide input to climate dialog – green buildings and GHG reductions
- Building Codes
 - Track initiatives to incorporate green standards into building codes
 - Identify best practices for incorporating green into existing codes
- Plan and Implement GB Conference
 - Theme: Affordable Housing and Green workforce development

- Recommendation (Stella Tarnay) – should also include green building for market rate housing
 - Form Conference Planning Work Group (**critical!!**)
 - Develop Conference Program
 - Develop Theme
 - Set Date and Develop Program Agenda
 - Market Conference Program
- Green Building Outreach and Education
 - Web Page – Leah Boggs will begin enhancing the IGBG web site similar to the COG Climate change web site
 - GB Tours – there were 5 tours scheduled in April by L. Boggs in cooperation with GreenDC Week; tours will continue to be scheduled in VA and MD
 - Educational Materials (brochure on green building in region)
 - GB training for building inspectors, planning staff, procurement officers

2. Subcommittee Breakout Sessions

- *Green Homes* – William Marsh took notes as follows:

The group agreed to draft an approximately 10-page document that assesses available residential green building standards for the region, provides a list of actions for local governments to pursue in incorporating these standards, and describes partnership opportunities with relevant organizations. Each section will also address relevant new home construction opportunities and existing home renovation opportunities.

Standards analysis and guidance will summarize available analyses, including the Environmental Law Institute document and Brett Kaplan’s report. Green standards to be reviewed include LEED for Homes, Earthcraft Virginia, and Enterprise Communities. Energy Star’s applicability to each of these standards could also be assessed. To be determined is whether the NAHB will publish standards in time for review. Possible points of comparison include the recommended “regional green” standards from the COG December 2007 report. Home size may also be assessed.

The role of local governments will begin by compiling relevant local incentives across the country that apply to residential building. It will offer different ideas for monetary/tax incentives and programmatic incentives i.e. expedited review.

Partnership opportunities with non-profit organizations, housing agencies, and electrical power companies will be explored. One recommendation is regional support of a resource learning center focused on homes, possibly located in downtown DC. How to bring about more regional capability for energy auditing may also be addressed.

The group will meet again on July 10 to assess document progress, with the expectation that

Emma Hetnar	Standards analysis and guidance
Noel Kaplan	Standards analysis and guidance
William Marsh	Standards analysis and guidance
Stella Tarnay	Roles of partnerships
Joan Kelsch	Roles of partnerships
Patty Rose	Standards analysis and guidance
Marion Clark	Local governments’ roles/Toolbox
Catherine Kendig	Local governments’ roles/Toolbox
Dawn Dhavale	Local governments’ roles/Toolbox
Dale Medearis	Local governments’ roles/Toolbox
Mona Cheri McCoy	Local governments’ roles/Toolbox

a substantial amount of the product will be in initial draft. Group members will work on the following sections:

- *Training and Education – Stella Tarnay took notes as follows:*

The group discussed what the scope of IGBG's training efforts should be, i.e., whether training should be targeted to the general public, building code officials, county staff, building professionals (e.g., contractors), or a combination of all of the foregoing. The group also discussed whether the training provided should be free or whether there would be a cost.

There are many industry organizations that provide specific training for a cost (e.g., USGBC for LEED; FEA for energy code training, etc.). Free training is also available (e.g., Arlington County offers green building workshops; USGBC has webinar training). The group agreed that we should not try to duplicate or substitute for such training, and that seeking out these types of training would be encouraged as a first step.

A need was identified to train building code officials and inspectors on how to apply energy codes and to be aware of green building requirements, including LEED, so as not to impede certification.

It was agreed that the subcommittee would first focus on developing "in-house" training for building code officials and county staff, on how to apply energy codes and to be aware of green building requirements, including LEED, because these issues were seen as a priority. Once this type of training program was up and running and tested, the subcommittee would consider expanding it to additional topics and or the general public, building professionals, etc.

In order to proceed with developing the "in-house" training programs, it was agreed that elected official support would be needed, and that Stuart and Cliff would begin developing a proposal that would include a budget, and a summary of the identified problem or need for which training was required, the solution to the problem, and the specific training plan. Training programs were anticipated to last a full day, and funding for participation, through MOU's and other procedures, were also discussed.

Group members include:

Leah Boggs
Stella Tarnay
Cliff Majersik
Kinga Porst
Paivi Spoon
Nicole Steele
Stuart Freudberg
Tom Mawson
Catherine Kendig
Susan Riley
Donna Crowe

Next meeting is July 10th at 10:00 am in the Training Center, first floor.