

Notes Montana Homes Collaborative

2-12-24

Attendees: Carl Little, Kluane Gorsuch, Evora Glenn, Ali Chipouras, Paul Tschida, Tess Studley, Mark Leland, Amy Cilimburg, Bonnie Rouse, James Childre, Marshall Swearingen, Carl Berntsen

1. MHC Workshop - timeframe, to be held in late May – mid June.

Tentative Speakers and topics

Nathan Itis – Cold Climate Heat Pumps

Andrea Michael – Energy Efficiency Retrofits

James Childre – ERI Compliance Path and incentives

MT DEQ – Incentives, IRA Overview

Possible additional – Carl Little and James Childre will attempt to arrange industry representatives to present on new technologies or building systems. (Examples: heat pump appliances, SIPS)

Carl Berntsen will investigate continuing education credits.

2. Montana Codes Conference:

To be held in Bozeman March 11-15th. DEQ will have a vendor booth. James Childre is considering a vendor booth. We will attempt to hold an informal MHC meeting during the conference for those members attending.

3. 2024 Code adoption

Discussion of some changes in the new code. The 2024 IECC is expected to be printed later in the first quarter 2024. Montana is expected to hold formal adoption proceedings late in 2024 and adoption is expected in 2025. Discussion of what provision we expect to receive opposition, including the mandatory HRV provision and air tightness standard of 2.5 ACH50. Overall, the new code seems to prepare new housing for an all-electric future including mandatory 240 power for range, solar ready provisions and electric vehicle charging. Discussion of MHC offering comments during the adoption process, TBD.

4. MHC Website

NCAT is creating a website to highlight the work of the MHC. Pictures are needed to populate the website. Tess Studley advised that some pictures are available from NEEA and that we can link to NEEA publications, and Better Built Northwest. James Childre offered photos as well. The Montana Roadmap for Affordable Housing is currently being formatted and will be added to the website.

5. Heat Pump Water Heaters and Appliances

Discussion of heat pump water heaters, the NEEA study and publication on installation and customer satisfaction.

Problems with retrofit applications include noise, cold air exhaust. Paul Tschida and Mark Leland reported that all heat pump water heaters installed in Habitat houses have all been disabled and placed in resistance heating mode. Mark talked about future solutions including installation in the garage, and exterior venting with a simple mechanism to provide interior cooling in the summer. The group discussed electric requirements for installation, possible exhaust solutions and proper siting. Amy Cilimburg and Evora Glenn advised the group on the Missoula rebate program for heat pump water heaters and that customer satisfaction was high for those installing these units. Some discussion on heat pump washer/dryer combinations including problems with lint buildup in heat exchanger.

Next meeting time will be after the Montana Codes Education Conference.