Task Force on Resilient Efficient Building

Meeting Summary
81st Legislative Assembly
2021-2022 Interim

Attendees	Senator Kate Lieber, Co-Chair Representative Pam Marsh, Co-Chair Senator Lynn Findley Neil Baunsgard Andrew Beyer Alex Boetzel Don Bohn Anjeanette Brown Ashley Buchanan Meredith Connolly Ernesto Fonseca Chris Forney	Elliott Gall Mike Goodrich Jay Hansen Kim Heiting David Heslam Bob Jenks Scott Linfesty Tricia Mooney Jairaj Singh Eli Spevak Matt Tidwell Lucy Vinis Bob Westerman
Absent	Representative Mark Owens Jeff McGillivray	
Date/Time	3:00 pm, Tuesday, April 5, 2022 **(**recording**)**.	
Meeting Topics	**Organizational Meeting – Adoption of Task Force Rules** **Task Force Member Introductions** • Member introductions and icebreaker activity • Co-Chairs intention for comprehensive policy discussion • Impacts of climate change, including increasing temperatures, wildfire risk, and water shortages • Legislative background Senate Bill 1518, 2022 – shared commitment to discuss building decarbonization • Housing crisis, cost of homeownership, and labor/supply shortage • Balanced approach • Working towards legislation for 2023 session • Experience of Resilient Efficient Building Task Force Members **Overview of Residential and Commercial Building Codes** Alana Cox, Administrator, Building Codes Division, Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS) • Building codes background and process: ○ Statutory authority: ORS 455.015 - 455.030	

- When adopting codes, the board must make a finding that "the added cost, if any, is necessary to the health and safety of the occupants or the public or necessary to conserve scare resources."
  - Adopted in three-year cycles and both the relevant board and the division need to approve any change to the code.
  - Explanation of code adoption process.
- How building codes impact our climate goals:
  - Residential and commercial consumption makes up 33 percent of energy consumption by sector and 23 percent is within the building codes authority (heating and cooling buildings, water heating and lighting).
  - Executive Order 17-20 includes several specific requirements, including solar-ready building, and a zero-energy-ready home.
  - Executive Order 20-04 requires performance goals representing at least a 60 percent reduction in new building annual site consumption of energy, excluding electricity used for transportation or appliances, from the 2006 Oregon residential and commercial codes. It also requires regular updates to the Reach Code every three years.
  - Resiliency – Codes need to change to help mitigate impacts of climate change: water conservation standards, gray water recapture, wildfire impacts around smoke and resist ignition of homes from embers, and extreme weather events.
- How Oregon's codes stack up:
  - Comparison and measurement of Oregon's existing building codes compared to other states.
  - Building codes have made large efficiency gains over the last 50 years but the code is hitting the limit around what is currently economically and technically feasible. DCBS will continue to make improvements but, barring new technology, it will be difficult to keep pace 6 plus years out.
  - Oregon is a national leader in energy efficiency and was the first in the nation to adopt ASHRAE 90.1-2019.
- When codes apply:
  - Almost half of homes in Oregon were built before any statewide building codes were adopted. Improving performance of older homes is large piece of puzzle and one that codes do not play a large role in.
  - There is an equity issue to consider in determining where to make investments. Older homes are often more affordable, and the impact of increased utility costs is felt more acutely. There is an opportunity to impact climate goals and to help Oregonians

	live more comfortably and affordably. ○ Predictability when building "above code" is key. ○ Reach Code (ORS 455.500) - It is an aspirational efficiency code: builders can choose to use it, and local government must accept projects built to the Reach Code ○ Building Codes Division (BCD) does not have data on number of "above code" buildings or use of the Reach Code. Plans are checked against adopted codes; there is no tracking of "above code" choices. • Looking forward: ○ Intention to continue to improve efficiency in the codes and achieve the goals and directives laid out in the Governor's executive order, while maintaining adherence to DCBS principles of code adoption. ○ Continue reaping benefits of Oregon's early adoption and continual leadership of statewide efficiency codes. ○ Energy efficiency improvements in the codes are becoming more complex and more costly (low-hanging fruit has already been picked). ○ The building code is only one tool in the tool belt on improving efficiency in the built environment. ○ Oregon's climate resiliency needs will require an enterprise approach to address the impacts of climate change on the built environment.
Issues Discussed	• Opportunity to make efficiency advancements in older homes while making it more comfortable and affordable to live in older homes. • The interaction between building codes and other agency programs. • It will be challenging to meet reduction goals beyond the next two code adoption cycles without additional technology changes. • Codes were originally created to address the 1973 energy price emergency, but the crisis has changed. Should there be different measurements or metrics to guide us. Climate resiliency aspect requires the ability to respond more nimbly.
Action Items	**Adoption of Task Force Rules** • Vote: Ayes – 25, Nays – 0, and Excused – 2 (Representative Owens and McGillvray)
Meeting Materials (OLIS)	Proposed Rules Member Roster Alana Cox, Manager, Policy and Technical Services, DCBS