

CO Codes & Standards Study and Evaluation

Guidehouse

5/10/2023 Xcel Energy DSM Roundtable



Agenda

- Project Overview
- CO Code Compliance Study Findings
- Overall Codes Product Recommendations



Project Overview

Evaluation Objectives



Conduct Field Study & Data Collection



Calculate Compliance through Lost Energy Cost Savings Approach (PNNL)



Understand which stakeholders are impacted by the codes product and where there are opportunities for improvement



Document best practices for calculating Codes product attribution and what could be applied to Xcel Energy



Recommend process changes, particularly related to data collection



CO Code Compliance Study Findings

Field Study Observations

Areas for Improvement	Positive Findings
Compliance documentation in field	Better energy code plan reviews
Commissioning of lighting controls	Lighting power density always met
Commissioning of mechanical equipment	HVAC efficiencies exceeded minimums
COMcheck and Performance Report reviews	More buildings starting to go performance and get tested
Daylighting and skylights	Putting in better windows
Not a lot of energy inspections	More jurisdictions on newer codes



Field Study Observations

Areas for Improvement	Positive Findings		
Equipment sizing / Load calculations	Better overall compliance than expected		
Mechanical and lighting were the only options chosen	Large improvement from last commercial study in 2016		
Elevator lighting / fans	People want to learn where they can do better. Nobody sets out to do a bad job.		
Equipment efficiencies not on plans	Regularly exceeding code requirements		
Glazing U-factors and SHGC verification			



Total Lost Energy Cost Savings by Building Type

		Lost Energy Cost Savings from Non-compliance			
Building Type n = # of buildings	Average conditioned area, sf	Sum of \$/yr	Sum of PV \$	Sum of \$/year/ksf	Sum of PV \$/ksf
Office, n = 11	151,450	\$8,086	\$114,661	\$80	\$1,214
Retail, n = 14	137,421	\$33,928	\$576,355	\$432	\$6,926
School, n = 6	176,819	\$6	\$80	\$0	\$0
Multifamily, n = 13	287,187	\$4,134	\$102,121	\$79	\$2,020
Warehouse, n = 6	191,305	\$7,124	\$104,847	\$58	\$904
Grand Total or Weighted Average	196,170	\$53,278	\$898,064	\$649	\$11,065





Overall Codes Product Recommendations for Xcel Energy

Jurisdiction Relationships

Areas for Improvement

Continue to tailor the Codes Product based upon each jurisdiction (or region of jurisdictions) segmented by code adoption level.

Build strong relationships with each municipality in the Xcel Energy territory, through the Codes Product implementer.

Encourage jurisdictions to develop Memorandums of Understandings (MOU) with third-party identifiers / verifiers to ensure a mutual agreement on what the jurisdiction and third party are verifying.

Provide a resource that identifies the top 10 to 15 high-impact energy efficiency items to verify and prioritize these measures with jurisdictions.



Trainings

Areas for Improvement

Tailor communication and trainings separately to contractors and code officials.

Training must include the different paths of compliance and the required documentation, as needed by each jurisdiction – including specific trainings for designers on how to match their reports to the plans and how to use the software, such as REScheck and COMcheck, and building simulation software like Trane Trace.

Develop training sessions which focus on low-compliance, high-impact areas, such as energy recovery requirements, would help to mitigate future lost energy costs.

Activities to Calculate Attribution

Areas for Improvement

Track all activities, surveys, and conversations with municipalities.

Training must include the different paths of compliance and the required documentation, as needed by each jurisdiction – including specific trainings for designers on how to match their reports to the plans and how to use the software, such as REScheck and COMcheck, and building simulation software like Trane Trace.

Continue to make trainings as accessible as possible.

Consider opportunities for collaboration with involved stakeholders on marketing materials.

Document influence over more stringent code design and adoption.

Green Codes, Stretch Codes, & Electrification

Areas for Improvement

Work closely with jurisdictions to understand their plans for future code adoption, particularly prior to Colorado's new code legislation in July 2023.

Continue exploring "electric-preferred" code support.

Program Planning and Savings Estimation

Areas for Improvement

Document evidence regarding municipal code update plans to more accurately forecast code program savings.

Include natural market adoption in the baseline scenario when estimating codes program savings.





Questions?

15

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