**Illinois Energy Conservation Advisory Council**

**February 18, 2025 - 12:00 p.m.**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**In Attendance:**

**Council Members:**

Jerry Bishoff, CDB Co-Chair

Allen Drewes, Old Towne Custom Builders, Inc.

Jason Easton, Windsor Homes, Inc.

Scott Farbman, dbHMS

Darnell Johnson, Urban Efficinecy Group, LLC

Rebecca Luke, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

Greg Thorpe, Rock Island County

David Wytmar, Architectural Design Groundwork, Ltd.

**Guests:**

Amber Dooley, Capital Development Board

Ben Rabe, NBI

Cheryl Scott, Metropolitan Mayors Caucus

Cherylyn Kelley, IMT

Eric Lacey

Erin Sherman, RMI

Isaac Elnecave

Jamie Capece, Elevate

John Grossman

Kaleigh O’Brien, ILL PIRG

Lauren, RMI

Margaret Vaughn, CRCA

Mark Graham, NRCA

Danish Murtaza

Ryan Siegel, SEDAC

Ryan Wilmington

Zoe Rader

Sean Fallows

1. Jerry Bishoff called the meeting to order at 12:04 pm.
2. Roll call of Council members was taken. Present members constituted a quorum. Darnell Johnson joined after roll call.
	* The meeting started recording.
3. Jerry Bishoff reminded everyone of the format for presenting the proposals.
4. Jason Easton made a motion to approve the February 4, 2025, meeting minutes and David Wytmar provided the second. Motion passed.
5. Erin Sherman presented on Proposal R02, which is similar to proposal R08. It adopts Appendix RG requiring a 10% increase in energy efficiency on new home construction and reduces the bias in favor of combustion equipment in new construction. This proposal would level the playing field between combustion equipment and efficient electric equipment to align with Illinois Priority Climate Action Plan. Jamie Capece from Elevate spoke in favor of the proposal to balance the scales between electric and mixed fuel buildings and the removal of the bias in the existing code. Kaleigh O’Brien from Illinois PIRG also spoke in favor of the proposal stating that it is crucial to level the playing field between all-electric and mixed fuel buildings by adopting language that sets equal reference models for all. Ryan Wilmington, representing Illinois Green Alliance, spoke in favor of the proposal urging the committee to accept the proposal to adopt industry standards to meet building efficiency. Allen Drewes spoke in opposition stating that the 2024 code already increases efficiencies and adopting this proposal would add even more cost to new home construction, so he does not recommend making it a mandatory part of the code. Erin Sherman provided a rebuttal to Allen Drewes stating that this proposal raises the bar by 10% for all fuel types. The proposal allows more credit for all electric homes that use 50% less energy than combustion homes and would make going all electric more affordable. Subcommittee discussion began with Darnell Johnson, Greg Thorpe, David Wytmar, and Allen Drewes citing concerns with approving this proposal at this time. Scott Farbman and Rebecca Luke reiterated that they recommend approval of this proposal to level the playing field for all fuel types. Rebecca Luke made a motion to approve the proposal and Scott Farbman provided a second. Scott Farbman and Rebecca Luke provided “yes” votes. Darnell Johnson, Greg Thorpe, Allen Drewes, David Wytmar, and Jason Easton provided “no” votes. Motion defeated.
6. Eric Lacey presented Proposal R04, to amend the 2024 IECC so that performance path assumptions for heating, cooling, and water heating equipment and duct location all remain as they are in Illinois’ current energy code and previous editions of the energy code that go back several cycles. Without the amendment, Illinois would be incorporating some pretty large efficiency reductions into the performance path allowing homes constructed in the future to be built in a less efficient manner. Erin Sherman spoke in favor of the proposal, especially the duct location provision. Ryan Wilmington also spoke in favor of the proposal stating that many within his organization expressed disappointment with the weakening amendments in model code. Isaac Enclave spoke in favor of the proposal stating how important it is to get the building envelope as strong and cost efficient as possible allowing you to raise the efficiency of equipment. There was no further discussion among the committee members and Scott Farbman made a motion to approve the proposal with David Wytmar providing a second. Rebecca Luke, Scott Farbman, and David Wytmar provided “yes” votes. Greg Thorpe, Jason Easton, Allen Drewes, and Darnell Johnson provided “no” votes. Motion defeated.
7. Cherylyn Kelly presented Proposal R08, similar to proposal R04 to level the playing field between electric and mixed-fuel homes. This proposal would establish a requirement for homes that purchase energy other than electric to meet a 10% higher efficiency target than what is currently in the base code. This approach would be allowed under the funding parameters of the IRA and would promote decarbonization and align with the Illinois goals to reduce energy. Erin Sherman, Jamie Capece, and Ryan Wilmington all spoke in favor of the proposal. Ryan Siegel provided concerns with the way the proposal is written. It may be seen as incomplete because it would no longer require all electric homes to have the 10 credits. If the committee approves the proposal, he would encourage an amendment to reincorporate the requirement for electric homes. Cherylnn stated that she was willing to work to modify the proposal to include the requirements for electric homes. There was no further discussion among the committee members and Scott Farbman made a motion to approve the proposal with modified language to ensure that all-electric residential buildings still be subject to the same 10 credits under the original language. Rebecca Luke provided a second. Scott Farbman and Rebecca Luke provided “yes” votes. David Wytmar, Allen Drewes, Darnell Johnson, Greg Thorpe, and Jason Easton provided “no” votes. The motion was defeated.
8. Scott Farbman briefly discussed adding PHI as an alternative compliance path in addition to PHIUS. He will bring more information to the next meeting for the subcommittee to vote on.
9. There was no public comment.
10. Allen Drewes motioned to adjourn with David Wytmar providing the second. Meeting was adjourned at 1:20 PM.