

# Residential Energy Code TAG

## Meeting notes

**Date:** Monday, Oct. 30, 2023

**Meeting location:** Hybrid – Minnesota Room/Webex

### Call to order

Steve Shold

### Attendance

TAG Members present: Steve Shold (DLI), Greg Metz (DLI), Chris Rosival (DLI), John Smith (practical engineering applications), Rebecca Olson (Minnesota Center for Energy and Environment), Eric Fowler (Fresh Energy), Eric Boyd (Housing First Minnesota), Alyssa Jagdfeld (MN AIA), Jim Kumon (Heirloom Properties), Mike Allen (BAM), Steve Ubl (building officials), Alison Lindburg (Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance) and Mike Robertson (Habitat for Humanity)

TAG Members absent: Mike Allen (BAM)

Guests attending: Amanda Spuckler (DLI), Brittany Wysokinski (DLI), Don Sivigny (DLI), Tim Manz (DLI), Chad Payment (DLI), Rich Lockrem (DLI), Nick Erickson, Mark Mikkelson, Michael Johnson, Brad Fevold, Craig Drumheller, Eric Lacey, Heidi Erm, Jaren Johnson, Jason Vandever, Matthew Brown, Patrick Murray, Patrick Nielsen, Peter Kulczyk, Rob Buchanan and Mike Wilson

1. Call to order

2. Review of residential provisions of the 2021 IECC section R402.2.12 through R402.4.1.3 and code change proposals as described below.

#### **Section R402.2.12 Sunroom and heated garage insulation**

TAG members reviewed the insulation requirements for sunrooms and heated garages. TAG members discussed whether the exceptions from insulation requirements permitted for sunrooms and heated garages is appropriate and if those spaces are used as living spaces but are thermally separated. TAG members considering limiting the amount of energy that could be used to heat the space but were concerned with conflicts with other codes. Also, discussed was the difficulty insulating a garage if an owner decides to heat it after construction is

completed. A code change proposal will be submitted with separate insulation requirements for sunroom and heated garage insulation.

#### **Code Change Proposal – Passive House Building Certification Option**

TAG members reviewed a revised code change proposal that allows a Passive House Building Certification Option as an alternative to compliance path. The TAG consensus was not to accept the code change proposal because the code is the minimum standard for construction.

#### **Sections R402.3 through R402.3.4; R402.4.1 through R402.4.1.2**

TAG members reviewed these sections and accepted the model code language.

#### **Section R402.3.5 Sunroom and heated garage fenestration**

The requirements for sunroom and heated garage fenestration will be included in a code change proposal to separate requirements for sunroom and heated garages.

#### **Section R402.4.1.3 Air leakage**

TAG members reviewed a code change proposal to reduce the air leakage rate from 3.0 air changes per hour (ACH) to 2.0 ACH. TAG members discussed the benefits of reduced air leakage for preventing condensation in the wall cavity and improving occupant comfort and thermal performance. Smaller homes and slab-on-grade houses may have difficulty complying with the lower ACH. Also discussed were the difficulties and costs associated with sealing. The discussion was tabled for the next meeting.

## **Next meeting**

Date: Monday, Nov. 13, 2023

Time: 1 p.m.

Location: Hybrid – Washington Room/Webex event

## **Meeting adjourned**

3 p.m.

**Prepared by:** Steve Shold