#### **Road to Net-Zero Energy Homes**

#### NEW ENGLAND BUILDING OFFICIALS EDUCATION ASSOCIATION (NEBOEA)

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# **Discussion Topics**



- United States Energy Usage and Trends in the Building Industry
- Building Enclosure Influences on Energy Efficiency
  - Air Tightness
  - Thermal Resistance (R values and U factors)
  - Structural
- Energy Rating Index
- Renewable Energy

## **U.S. Energy Consumption by Sector**





#### **U.S. Energy Consumption**





Current U.S. energy consumption is not sustainable and could threaten our national security. We have an opportunity to reduce U.S. dependence on foreign oil, and improve the health of the planet.

## **Aggressive Code Changes**





"Energy net zero" is in sight...



#### **Residential Energy Codes Improving Faster**



\* IECC – International Energy Conservation Code

## **IECC** implications for building enclosure



- Insulation
- Air tightness



## **IECC Climate Zone Map**





## **NEBOEA Climate Zone Map**





#### **IECC** Residential Adoptions (7/15/14)







Wood Framed Wall R-Values				
Climate Zone	2009 IECC	20	012 IECC	2015 IECC
5 and Marine 4	20 or 13+5	20	) or 13+5	20 or 13+5
6	20 or 13+5	20+	5 or 13+10	20+5 or 13+10
7 & 8	21	20+	5 or 13+10	20+5 or 13+10

**No Change** 

Thermal Resistance - Wall Insulation Prescriptive requirements



#### Cavity Insulation Example: R13

Cavity Insulation + Continuous insulation (c.i.) Example: R13 + 5



Question: Does R13 + 5 = R18?

#### "Fluffy" insulation







Cellulose R = 3-4 per inch R = 3.5-4 R = 3.5-4Cotton – Blue Jeans R = 3.5 per inch

Fiberglass R = 3.5-4 Per inch

## **Fluffy insulation - Challenges**



#### Reduction in R value





#### **Foam Insulation**





Open cell (cell walls are ruptured) Closed cell

#### **Foam Insulation**





EPS Expanded Polystyrene Closed Cell R = 4 Per inch



Polyisocyanurate Closed Cell R = 6 Per inch



XPS Extruded Polystyrene Closed Cell R = 5 Per inch



Sprayed Polyurethane Foam Open Cell/Closed Cell R = 3.5/6.0 Per inch



Insulation Type	R Value per inch	Permeance (wet cup) @ 1.0"	Air Permeable @ 1.0"
Fiberglass	3.5	Highly Permeable	Yes
High Density Fiberglass	4.3	Highly Permeable	Yes
Cellulose	3.0 - 4.0	Highly Permeable	Yes
Cotton – Denim	3.5	Highly Permeable	Yes
XPS	4	1.0 - 1.5	No
EPS	5	3.0 - 5.0	Yes
Polyiso	6	1.5 - 2.0	No
SPF	Open cell – 3.5 Closed cell – 6.0	Open cell – 50.0 Closed cell – 2.0	Open cell – Yes Closed cell – No





# R-Value: Thermal resistance U-Factor: Heat Transmittance

R-Value = 1/U-Factor U-Factor = 1/R-Value





- R-13 wall insulation, what is the U-Factor? Answer: 1/13 = 0.077
- Wall with a U-Factor of 0.058, what is the R-Value? Answer: 1/0.058 = 17.24
- A 2x4 stud has an R-Value of 4.38, what is the U-Factor? Answer: 1/4.38 = 0.228





- R-11 wall insulation and ½" OSB (R = 0.62), what is the U-Factor? Answer: 1/(11 + 0.62) = 0.086
- R-11 wall insulation, ½" OSB (R=0.62) and R-3 Rigid Foam, what is the U-factor? Answer: 1/(11 + 0.62 + 3) = 0.068

## **U-factor** application





## **U-factor** application



Numbered Wall Component	R (A1)	R(A2)
1. Outside Air Film	0.17	0.17
2. Lapped Wood Siding	0.81	0.81
3. OSB Sheathing (1/2")	0.62	0.62
4. Framing or Insulation	4.38	13
5. Gypsum Wall Board (1/2")	0.45	0.45
6. Inside Air Film	0.68	0.68
Total R	7.11	15.7
U-Factor	0.141	0.0637
Percentage of total wall area	25%	75%

Calculation: Area weighted average U-factor U = (A1xU1) + (A2xU2) U = (0.25x0.141) + (0.75x0.0637) U = 0.0830R = 12.05

#### What about windows?







## **IECC** implications for building enclosure



- Insulation
- Air tightness



## **IECC Air-Sealing Implications**

(or)



2009 IECC



Examples: -Caulk around rough opening framing - Seal top and bottom wall plates 2012 and 2015 IECC (Mandatory Blower Door)





Air Leakage Compliance Methods Air Changes per Hour (ACH) at 50 Pascals of pressure (50 Pa)			
Climate Zone	2009 IECC Visual inspection or blower door	2012 IECC Blower door only	2015 IECC Blower door only
5	Follow checklist or 7 ACH	3 ACH	3 ACH
6	Follow checklist or 7 ACH	3 ACH	3 ACH
7 & 8	Follow checklist or 7 ACH	3 ACH	3 ACH

**No Change** 

#### Energy Codes address all components of the building envelope



 Where Do We Lose Energy in Residential Houses

**FLAT OUT** 

- 40% through attic/roof
- 36% through basement, crawlspace or slab
- 14% through wall cavity
- 10% through window & door assemblies & gaps

**Psystem** 







































# What's wrong with this picture?





# Structures must resist loads from – snow, wind & seismic events





#### **Structural – Lateral Loads**



#### VIDEO

#### **Structural failures can be catastrophic**







#### Beyond the 2012 IECC – What's next?





#### HERS Path in 2015 IECC HERS Index is the MPG sticker for new homes







Climate Zone	Energy Rating Index
1	52
2	52
3	51
4	54
5	55
6	54
7	53
8	53

#### **Builder use of HERS Index**







the long-term costs of running it."

#### Real Estate Industry recognize value of Energy Efficient Homes







Area: Style: Craftsman, Traditional Beds: 3 Full Baths: 2 Half-Baths: 1 HERS Rating (Year Tested): 48 (2011) Split BR Plan: Yes Year Built: 2010 Total Ht/Cool SF: 2,250 Total SF Under Roof: 3,006 SqFt Source: SF from Plans/Appraisal Parcel Size-Range: Up to .33 Apx Lot Dim.: 60x110

Multiple Listing Service (MLS)

County: Alachua Subdivision: Belmont New Constr.: Yes Condition: (NEW)New Construction Sect-Twp-Rng: 27-9-18 Assoc. Fee: Yes Assoc. Fee 5: 92 Assoc. Fee Pd: Monthly Parcel Size: .20 Acres Bank Owned: No Short Sale: No

#### **Net-Zero Energy Homes by 2030**





Challenge Home: DOE program that promotes the use of innovative energy efficient solutions that will enable the eventual construction of **net zero energy homes** 







# **THANK YOU**