Energy Codes In Alabama

Energy Division
Alabama Department
of Economic and Community Affairs

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CHALLENGES

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Home Rule!

- Alabama is a home rule state consisting of 67 Counties and over 450 Municipalities
  - Eight jurisdictions have adopted some version of the IECC
  - Forty-six jurisdictions have adopted some version of the IRC

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Code Adoptions

- Some of those jurisdictions have modified the code increasing the stringency of the Energy Efficiency Chapter 11
- Many have modified the Energy Efficiency Chapter making the code less stringent

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Previous Efforts

- Joint grant with Mississippi
- Building Codes Assistance Project and Southface Energy Institute
- 6 training sessions
- 3 locations
- 3 days
- Training sessions on Builder's Code College

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Previous Efforts

- Study by Auburn University's College of Building Science
- Adopting the IECC 2006, A Roadmap for Cities, Towns and Counties in Alabama
- Surveyed jurisdictions for code adoption status
- Addressed perceived problems with code adoption for local policy makers

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State-Funded Buildings

- State-funded buildings
  - 2006 IECC mandatory

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Legislation

- Proposed legislation forming the Alabama Code Council
  - Two Committees – Residential and Commercial
  - Would adopt codes for the state except for state-funded buildings
  - Legislation did not pass

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MORE CHALLENGES

ARRA Requirements

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Home Rule states will have a challenge meeting the ARRA requirements

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Planned Approach

- Stepped up training to code officials, architects, engineers
- Target policymakers at the local levels
- Provide solutions to code adoption issues such as enforcement

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Planned Approach Cont'd

- Update study by Auburn University on residential code adoptions in Alabama
- Develop a policy package to be used in one-on-one technical assistance to local governments
- Provide assistance to the larger metropolitan areas and other jurisdictions demonstrating that they have adopted the 2009 IECC and ASHRAE 90.1-2007, or are expressly interested in doing so.

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Tools and Assistance

- Pacific Northwest Nat'l Laboratories
- Building Energy Codes Program
- Building Codes Assistance Project
- Southeast Energy Efficiency Alliance
- International Codes Council
- Others

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Contact Info

- Karen Clifton
- Karen.clifton@adeca.alabama.gov
- 334.242.5321

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