



# Engaging Cities to Improve Code Compliance

March 24, 2015 | DOE National Energy Codes Conference

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# Why cities?

- **Compliance enforcement happens in cities**

## The Challenge?

- There are a lot of cities (How can efforts be scaled?)
- Cities do some stuff the same and some stuff different
- There is a need for tailored strategies

# City Energy Project

An ambitious national initiative to improve the energy efficiency of existing buildings in 10 major American cities.

Working at this scale required us to aggregate significant resources: 3 major funders and a partnership of 2 organizations



# The 10 Cities Represent All Regions of the Country

- 6 cities interested in improving code compliance



# Initial Baseline Assessments (4 cities)

- Baseline assessments show 64-75% compliance rates (commercial buildings)

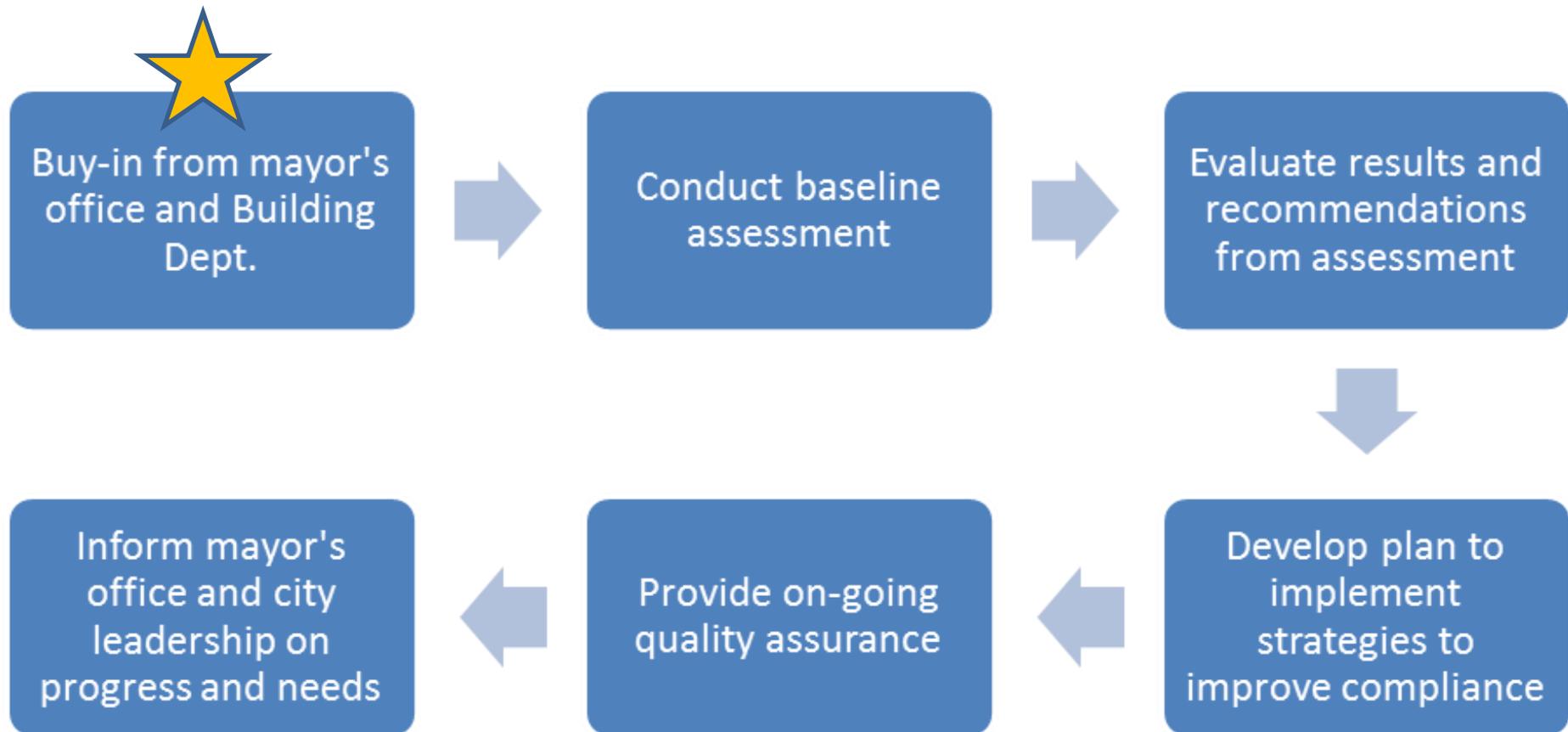
## Initial Assessment Results

City	Area of Construction Impacted (ft <sup>2</sup> )	Compliance Rate (%)
City #1	475,827	74.7
City #2	1,855,163	68.2
City #3	563,240	64
City #4	2,907,128	74

**And the #1 issue in every city is...**

**DOCUMENTATION**

# Getting Started: The Ideal Process



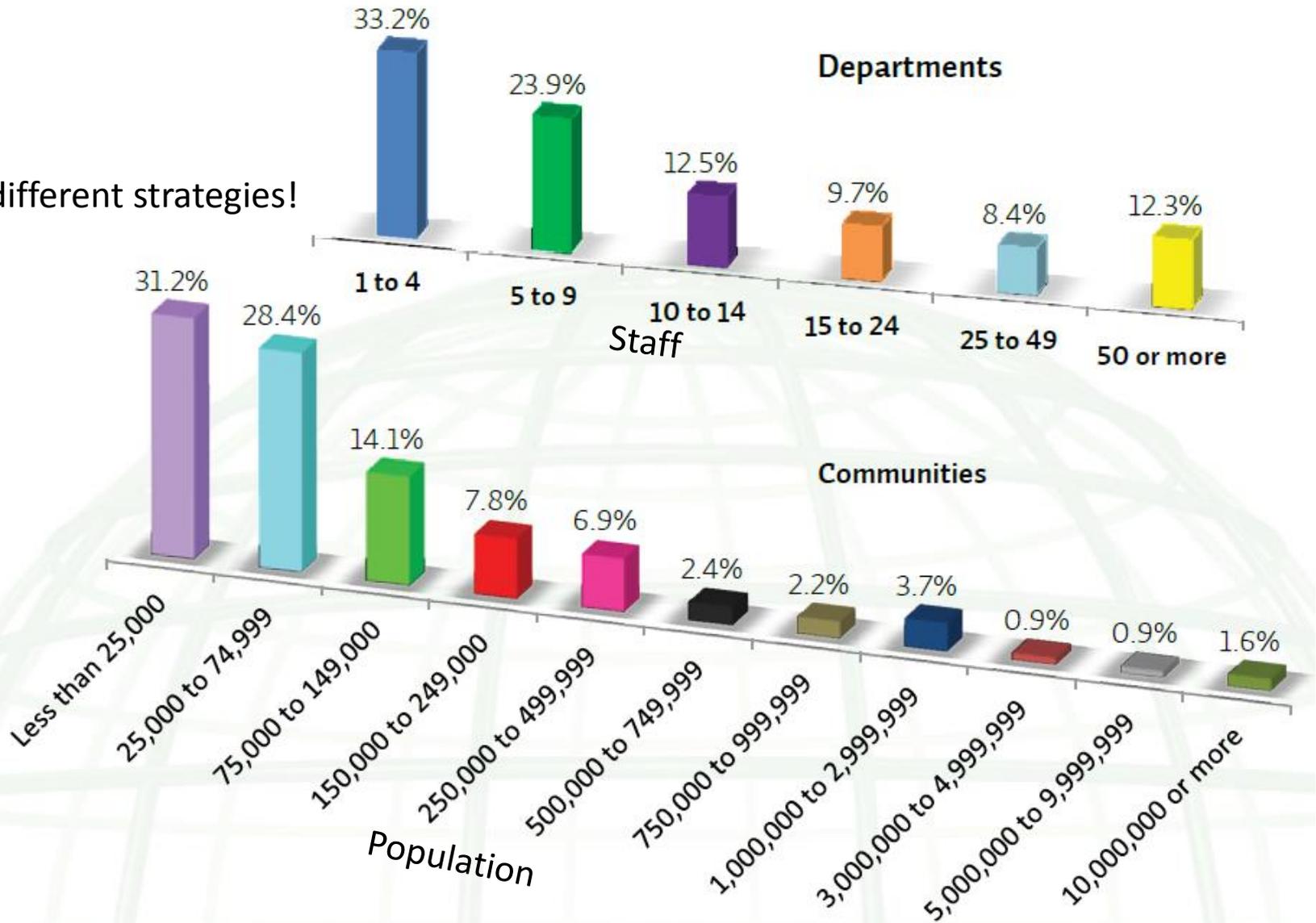
# More about the process...

- Getting a foot in the door is not easy
- Buy-in from mayor's office is usually easier, but it doesn't mean the building official will cooperate
- Need to develop trust
- Offer resources that can help in the absence of a commitment to work on energy code compliance
- The energy code doesn't exist in a vacuum—need to acknowledge other codes
- The process of evaluating energy code compliance can help across the whole department
- **Confidentiality is key!!**

# Large vs. Small Cities

From 3,850 responses to a NIBS survey of local code officials in all 50 states and 3 countries

Need different strategies!



# Challenges Facing Building Departments

*Some challenges exist regardless of building department size...*

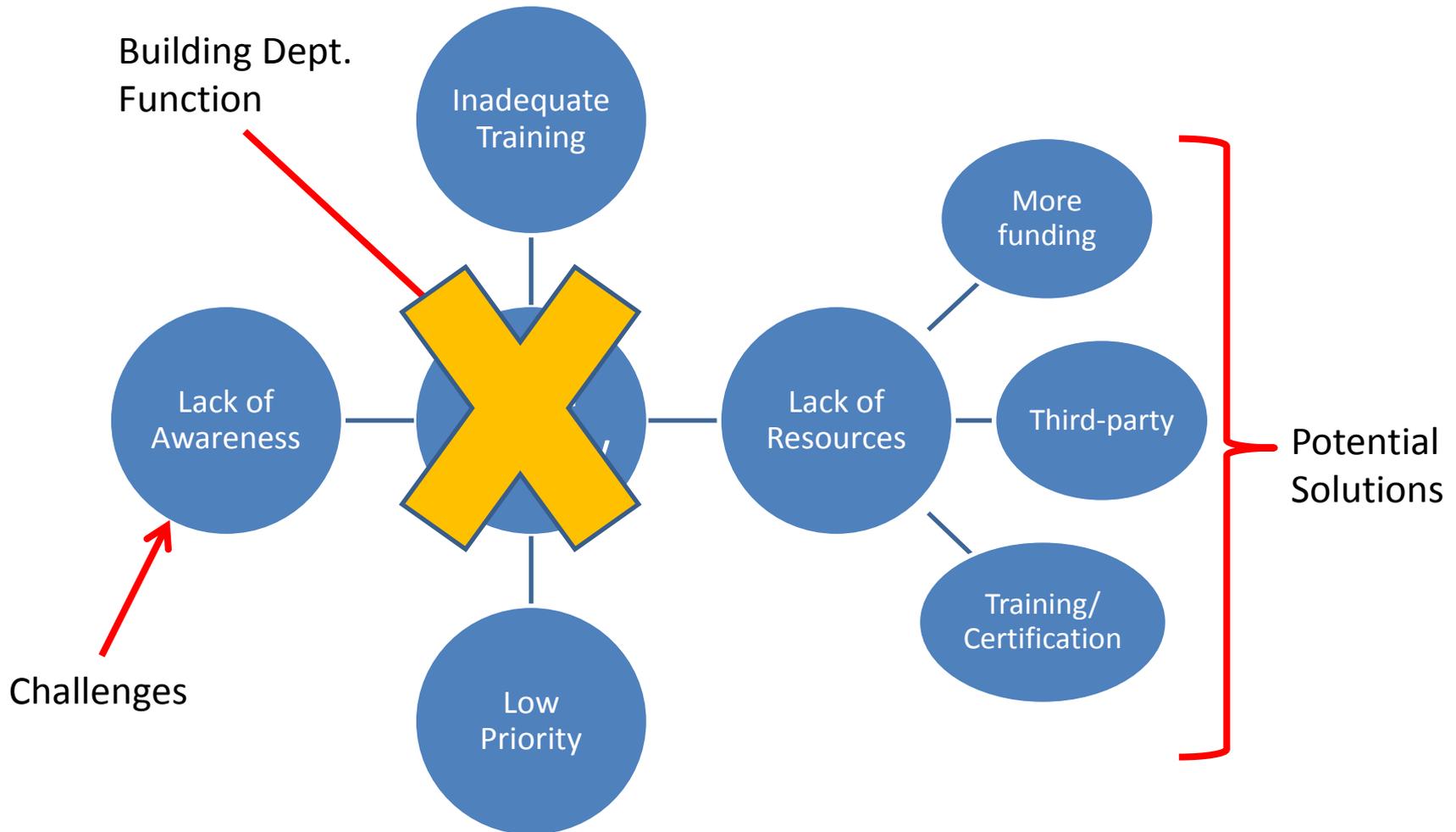
There are many challenges, four common ones are:

- ***Lack of resources:*** permit fees too low or lack of appropriated funds from general fund
- ***Low priority:*** less important than fire/life safety codes, also lack of political will
- ***Inadequate training:*** many changes in energy code over last decade and little budget/time for staff to attend training
- ***Lack of awareness:*** departments don't know what issues exist and therefore cannot fix them

# Developing Solutions

***Knowing what's wrong is only half the battle...***

- Example: Residential plan review



# Ask the right questions...

- How is the building department funded?
- What types of inspections do they require?
- What is required at plan review?
- What types of processes do they use?
  - Paper
  - Electronic
  - A combination
- How many staff do they have?
- How are staff responsibilities divided?
- What some common energy code issues/concerns?
- What type of support do they get from local leadership?

# Method for City Compliance Assessment

## Document title: ***The City Energy Project Assessment Methodology for Energy Code Compliance in Medium to Large Cities***

- Based on:
  - DOE methodology to measure energy code compliance in states
  - City compliance baseline assessments
  - Extensive peer review
- Document provides a method for cities to evaluate their energy code compliance both quantitatively and qualitatively.
- Tailored for med to large city needs and budgets



The City Energy Project  
Assessment Methodology for  
Energy Code Compliance in  
Medium to Large Cities



<http://www.imt.org/resources/detail/the-city-energy-project-assessment-methodology-for-energy-code-compliance-i>

# A Plan to Achieve Compliance

Document title: ***Establishing a Plan to Achieve Energy Code Compliance in Cities***

- Based on:
  - 3 years of lessons learned
  - IMT best practice case studies
  - City compliance baseline assessments
  - Peer review from code officials
- Document presents challenges to achieving high levels of compliance along with numerous solutions



Establishing a Plan to  
Achieve Energy Code  
Compliance in Cities



<http://www.imt.org/resources/detail/establishing-a-plan-to-achieve-energy-code-compliance-in-cities>

Thank You!

Questions?

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