

ENERGY CODE COLLABORATIVES IN DELAWARE AND NEW HAMPSHIRE

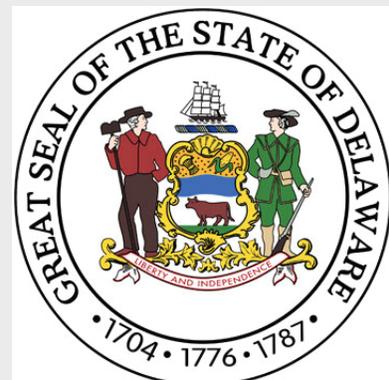
TAKE AWAY POINTS:

- State Energy Code Collaborative efforts bring together diverse stakeholders to promote transparency and dialogue concerning energy code adoption and compliance.
- The [Delaware Division of Energy and Climate](#) (DE&C) created the Delaware Energy Code Coalition in November of 2011 to achieve 100 percent code compliance in the state by 2017.
- The New Hampshire Building Energy Code Compliance (NHBECC) Forming Group began meeting with stakeholders in fall 2012 in preparation for the Collaborative’s official launch anticipated for early 2013.

Background

In order to meet the requirements of Section 410(a) of the [American Recovery and Reinvestment Act](#) (ARRA), states must achieve at least 90 percent compliance rates with the national model energy code (2009 IECC or higher) by 2017. The [Building Codes Assistance Project’s \(BCAP\) Compliance Planning Assistance \(CPA\) Program](#) worked with the Department of Energy (DOE) to assist certain states with completing a gap analysis report to document existing energy code infrastructure, as well as a strategic compliance plan, which develops targeted action items for states to move towards full energy code compliance. These resources encouraged and supported the development of Energy Code Compliance Collaboratives. Energy Code Collaboratives, also referred to as “Compliance Coalitions,” create an open dialogue and clearinghouse for ideas and conversations concerning energy codes in a number of states already. According to the [American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy](#) (ACEEE), a Compliance Collaborative is designed to assist states that are struggling with declining budgets, resources, and staff by assembling a team of diverse stakeholders to ensure greater compliance with the energy code. It is a proven [best practice](#) in New Hampshire and Delaware, as well as Idaho, Nevada, Colorado, and Texas.

Delaware benefited greatly from BCAP’s CPA Program which resulted in the development of both a [Gap Analysis Report](#) and a [Strategic Compliance Plan](#) for the state. The Delaware Division of Energy and Climate (DE&C), which is the legislative authority that reviews and adopts updated energy codes every three years, created the Delaware Energy Code Coalition in November of 2011, following the first recommendation in its Strategic Compliance Plan. It



was the first CPA state to create a Code Coalition. The Coalition consists of a diverse group of state and local stakeholders responsible for advising DE&C on energy code implementation, infrastructure, updates, and compliance. [ACEEE's State Energy Efficiency Policy Database](#) indicates these stakeholders represent homebuilders, building code officials, contractors, and representatives from the American Institute of Architects (AIA), Delaware Sustainable Energy Utility (SEU), ASHRAE Delaware, NEEP and BCAP. The Coalition will use the state's Strategic Compliance Plan to achieve 100 percent code compliance by 2017, as well as join BCAP and NEEP in advising DE&C on code adoption and implementation. In a [NASEO webinar](#), Delaware energy planner Bahareh Van Boekhold explained that in addition to advising DE&C, Delaware's Energy Code Coalition will work with the SEU and other utilities to encourage ratepayer funded building energy code programs.

New Hampshire's [Energy Code Challenge](#) supports efforts to strategize and measure the state's progress toward reaching ARRA's 90 percent energy code compliance requirement. The Code Challenge is an ongoing state campaign that seeks to make New Hampshire one of the most energy efficient places in the country. Since 2009, New Hampshire's Office of Energy and Planning (OEP) has worked with GDS Associates to develop the goals and resources of the Code Challenge, outlined in the [NH Building Energy Code Compliance Roadmap](#), released in April of 2012. Ad-



ditional efforts and materials to help assist the state's energy code compliance goals were developed by BCAP in both the [Gap Analysis Report](#) and [Strategic Compliance Plan](#). One of the many accomplishments to date of the Code Challenge efforts, and a direct result of the Compliance Roadmap, is the establishment of the New Hampshire Building Energy Code Compliance (NHBECC) Forming Group. The mission of the NHBECC project is to form a stakeholder collaborative that will advance building energy code compliance in the state and serve as a reliable and unbiased centralized source of information on building energy codes in New Hampshire. This group will be responsible for presenting the knowledge and tools that builders, lenders, appraisers, buyers, and state and local regulators need to evaluate and assign value to building energy efficiency. To date, the Forming Group is still in the process of developing its goals, key issues, and agenda items, but held its first meeting in the fall of 2012. The Forming Group will invite new and continuing energy code compliance players to participate in the Collaborative, which will make achieving 90 percent compliance with the 2009 IECC its primary goal.