

ACT 151 BUILDING ENERGY
CODE WORKING GROUP
REPORT TO THE
VERMONT LEGISLATURE

November 15, 2025

Contents

Working Group members	2
List of Acronyms	3
Executive Summary	4
Legislative Directive	5
Progress made on 2023 Building Energy Code Study Committee and 2024 Building Energy Code Working Group Recommendations	5
2025 BECWG Recommendations	6
Defining "Authority Having Jurisdiction"	11
Conclusion	12
Appendix A – BECWG 2023 – 2025 Recommendations Summary & Progress.....	13
Appendix B – Other strategies considered and not recommended by the Working Group.	20

Working Group members

Scott Campbell - BECWG Co-Chair, VT House of Representatives

Senator Seth Bongartz - BECWG Co-Chair, VT Senate

Kelly Launder - Department of Public Service – Division of Efficiency and Energy Resources

Michael Desrochers - Department of Public Safety - Division of Fire Safety

Steve Spatz - Efficiency Vermont

Chris Burns - Burlington Electric Department

Timothy Perrin - Vermont Gas Systems

Tom Bursey – American Institute of Architects Vermont

Jim Bradley – Vermont Builders and Remodelers Association

Richard Wobby - Association of General Contractors of Vermont

Ted Brady - Vermont League of Cities and Towns

Chris Campany – Regional Planning Commission - Windham Regional Commission

Craig Peltier – Vermont Housing and Conservation Board

Jennifer Colin - Office of Professional Regulation

Peter Tucker - Vermont Association of Realtors

List of Acronyms

AHJ - Authority Having Jurisdiction

ASHRAE - American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers

DFS - Division of Fire Safety

DOE - US Dept of Energy

EEU - Energy Efficiency Utilities (EVT, BED, VGS)

EVT - Efficiency Vermont

HERS - Home Energy Rating System

IBC - International Building Code

IRC - International Residential Code

IECC - International Energy Conservation Code

OPR - Office of Professional Regulation

PSD - Public Service Department

RBES/CBES - Residential/Commercial Building Energy Standards

RGGI - Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative

TEPF - Thermal Energy & Process Fuels (thermal funding)

Executive Summary

Act 151 of 2024 reconstituted the Building Energy Code Working Group (BECWG) to recommend strategies for increasing compliance with the Residential Building Energy Standards (RBES) and Commercial Building Energy Standards (CBES).

The BECWG made the following recommendations this year, which are discussed more fully in the report, including dissenting and general comments.

1. The AHJ for energy codes for all buildings should be DFS, starting with public buildings currently under their jurisdiction and extending to single-family upon adequate funding and resources and a phased timeline.
2. AHJ for RBES/CBES should transition to DFS in stages by 2030. Transition funding could come from TEPF; ultimately funding would be fees, as with all other DFS programs.
3. DFS should become the single repository of RBES and CBES compliance certificates by 7/1/27, including for single-family residential. (Filing in town records would no longer be required.)
4. A portion (~\$400k) of accumulated RGGI receipts in TEPF (~\$10m) should be used to support energy code compliance, even if no energy savings is attributed (e.g., staff & tech consult, Contractor registry website, marketing).
5. A Task Force of stakeholders, educators, and state officials should be set up for technical and logistical support for OPR's Residential Contractor registry, e.g., list of trade services, voluntary certifications, credentialing entities.
6. The "Energy Module" currently required for certain DFS trades and OPR professions should be updated to focus on energy code requirements relevant to those trades/professions, rather than statute language.
7. Future energy codes should be IECC with few or no changes. IECC updates are folded into next IBC/IRC updates, so this ultimately could eliminate separate VT energy codes altogether. (Effectively this may mean no longer accounting for VT energy goals.)
8. Future code update should consider requiring ventilation system testing/balancing/commissioning to ensure compliance with applicable standards and consider whether to add third-party attestation to RBES/CBES certificates.

Legislative Directive

Act 151 established three charges for the BECWG:

- (1) Recommend strategies and programs to increase awareness of and compliance with the RBES and CBES, including the use of appropriate certifications for contractors trained on the energy codes
- (2) Develop plans and recommendations for a potential transition to a comprehensive program for the RBES and CBES at the Divisions of Fire Safety, including potential funding sources; and
- (3) Consider whether or not the State should adopt a statewide building code.

The BECWG held seven meetings where the charges were discussed. Recommendations were developed pursuant to the charges and built upon the work completed by the 2023 and 2024 Working Groups.

Progress made on 2023 Building Energy Code Study Committee and 2024 Building Energy Code Working Group Recommendations

Progress has been made on many of the recommendations from the Act 47 BECSC and the Act 151 BECWG reports to the General Assembly.¹ A table with a summary of those recommendations and progress is included in Appendix A. The list below provides a high-level summary of the key status updates:

- The Office of Professional Regulation (OPR) remains actively engaged in the contractor registry and developing certifications.
 - OPR has drafted rules for residential contractors, including certifications for RBES and OSHA, but these have not been filed. The RBES certification exam is incomplete due to halted development after DOE funding was withdrawn.
 - OPR is working on a state project to meet federal ADA digital accessibility requirements by April 24, 2026, which involves significant website content updates. As a result, the residential contractor map may be removed, but OPR is open to sharing registration data with an entity that has greater web development capabilities.

¹ [2023 BECSC Final Report & 2024 BECWG Final Report](#)

- The Division of Fire Safety (DFS) continues to make progress on their revised permit database and review of the IRC.
 - A revised permit database is expected to be launched in September 2026; changes to Title 30 regarding document storage may be needed.
 - Detailed inputs from RBES/CBES certificates have been formatted into searchable "smart fields" for the new system. RBES and CBES certificates will be accepted for buildings under DFS jurisdiction (not Single-family residential unless they are rentals).
 - DFS has a preliminary overview of what Vermont adoption of the International Residential Code (IRC) would look like and plans to schedule another IRC meeting to discuss challenges.
- The Energy Efficiency Utilities continue to provide energy code support. In 2024-2025 Efficiency Vermont held almost 70 in-person and virtual trainings attended by almost 1,350 participants.
- The DOE Residential and Efficient Codes Implementation (RECI) grant that was led by Energy Futures Group is no longer available to support energy code education, training and awareness efforts in Vermont.

2025 BECWG Recommendations

This section presents the BECWG recommendations, which are associated with the three Act 151 charges detailed above. The members of the BECWG voted on each recommendation and the vote tallies are also included below. (Note: One member was not present and others had to leave during the course of the meeting, which is displayed in the number absent.)

- 1. The AHJ for energy codes for all buildings should be DFS, starting with public buildings currently under their jurisdiction and extending to single-family upon adequate funding and resources and a phased timeline.**

VOTE: 6 – Yes; 5 – No; 3 – Abstain (1 Absent)

Dissenting comments:

Associated General Contractors of Vermont (AGC/VT): DFS lacks capacity to enforce expanded energy codes; AGC/VT prefers further study over immediate jurisdictional changes.

Vermont Association of Realtors (VAR): Now is not the right time to appoint an AHJ, there has been no financial analysis of the cost to implement.

Division of Fire Safety (DFS) and Department of Public Service (PSD): The DFS does not have the capacity or experience to inherit such a program. The Division's mission is protecting human life from fire, CO poisoning, electrocution, explosions, hazardous material releases, chemical spills, training emergency responders and insuring safe drinking water and sanitation. It is important to recognize Public Safety as an enterprise that is faced with many safety priorities and although energy efficiency is important it is not a public safety priority. Additionally, a top-down approach is destined to fail. Successful code and standards involve making sure we have trade professionals that can do the work properly the first time. This proposal would be extremely costly, contains no reliable funding source and will create layers of bureaucracy with numerous unintended consequences. The implications are far reaching and the financial impact on the housing market cannot be overstated.

2. The AHJ for RBES/CBES should transition to DFS in stages by 2030. Transition funding could come from TEPF; ultimately funding would be fees, as with all other DFS programs.

VOTE: 6 – Yes; 3 – No; 2 – Abstain (3 Absent)

Dissenting comments:

Associated General Contractors of Vermont (AGC/VT): Shifting AHJ to DFS by 2030 could increase regulatory burdens, reduce local control, and impose new fees on contractors without clear benefits or stakeholder consensus.

Department of Public Service (PSD): In addition to not agreeing with DFS being designated the AHJ, as described above, the PSD does not think this is the highest and best use, or appropriate use, of TEPF funding, which is primarily used to weatherize buildings.

Division of Fire Safety (DFS): DFS fundamentally opposes the expansion of our existing authority

3. DFS should become the single repository of RBES and CBES compliance certificates by 7/1/27, including for single-family residential. (Filing in town records would no longer be required.)

VOTE: 7 – Yes; 5 – No; 2 – Abstain (1 Absent)

Dissenting comments:

Associated General Contractors of Vermont (AGC/VT): Centralizing certificates at DFS removes local oversight, complicates access for towns, and risks delays or errors without guaranteed improvements in compliance or transparency.

Vermont Association of Realtors (VAR): Attorneys need to be able to find these certificates in the land records.

Division of Fire Safety (DFS): DFS opposes the expansion into single-family owner-occupied homes. DFS does not have the capacity or administrative resources to manage this. DFS has

supported the electronic filing of compliance certificates for those buildings we regulate and that are defined as "public buildings" in statute.

General Comments:

American Institute of Architects Vermont (AIA-VT): Provided the other DFS as AHJ items are implemented.

- 4. A portion (~\$400k) of accumulated RGGI receipts in TEPF (~\$10m) should be used to support energy code compliance, even if no energy savings is attributed (e.g., staff & tech consult, Contractor registry website, marketing).**

VOTE: 7 – Yes; 3 – No; 4 – Abstain (1 Absent)

Dissenting comments:

Associated General Contractors of Vermont (AGC/VT): It diverts RGGI funds from measurable energy savings, sets a precedent for non-performance-based spending, and lacks clear contractor benefit or accountability.

Department of Public Service (PSD): Every three years the Public Utility Commission (PUC) Demand Resource Planning (DRP) proceeding occurs to establish EVT, BED, and VGS budgets and performance targets. The proceeding covers electric and natural gas efficiency budgets and benefits funded via the energy efficiency charge (EEC) as well as thermal energy and process fuel (TEPF) funds for EVT and BED. The PSD is currently in discussions with the EEU's regarding energy code compliance and it will be addressed in the DRP. The PSD strongly recommends these decisions and conversations remain in that venue. The PSD does not think enhancing the Res. Contractor Registry would be the highest and best use, or appropriate use, of the TEPF funds that are used to weatherize buildings.

General Comments:

Vermont Association of Realtors (VAR): Used for education this is a great use of the RGGI, we support the removal of 3 parentheses sections, which specify amounts.

- 5. A Task Force of stakeholders, educators, and state officials should be set up for technical and logistical support for OPR's Residential Contractor registry, e.g., list of trade services, voluntary certifications, credentialing entities.**

VOTE: 10 – Yes; 3 – No; 1 – Abstain (1 Absent)

Dissenting comments:

Associated General Contractors of Vermont (AGC/VT): It adds bureaucracy, duplicates existing efforts, and risks creating unclear standards without direct industry leadership or practical contractor input.

Vermont Association of Realtors (VAR): Contractor education should be the first step in increasing compliance with RBES/CBES.

Vermont Builders and Remodelers Association (VBRA): We support one unified authority, DFS, for training and certifying tradespeople. They already do a good job licensing and certifying thirteen trades and professions. OPR is best equipped to register businesses and investigate allegations of fraud. DFS is best equipped to certify individuals and manage standards of competency. This position aligns with the 2023 BECSC recommendations.

General Comments:

American Institute of Architects Vermont (AIA-VT): AIA-VT is somewhat agnostic on the Residential Contractor registry. But we generally see the positive effect this may have on Building Safety and Code Compliance.

- 6. The "Energy Module" currently required for certain DFS trades and OPR professions should be updated to focus on energy code requirements relevant to those trades/professions, rather than statute language.**

VOTE: 12 – Yes; 2 – Abstain (1 Absent)

General Comments:

Associated General Contractors of Vermont (AGC/VT): Refocusing the Energy Module on trade-relevant energy code requirements improves practical understanding, supports compliance, and reduces confusion from overly legalistic content.

American Institute of Architects Vermont (AIA-VT): Energy code requirements and State Statutes should not be in conflict.

Division of Fire Safety (DFS): DFS supports the overhaul of the energy efficiency module. Currently the module is too broad in scope and does not provide any benefit to contractors. A module that provides some prescriptive information including resources would be much more valuable.

Vermont Association of Realtors (VAR): Realtors need to take this energy module. It is very basic and should be expanded, especially for trades.

- 7. Future energy codes should be IECC with few or no changes. IECC updates are folded into next IBC/IRC updates, so this ultimately could eliminate separate VT energy codes altogether. (Effectively this may mean no longer accounting for VT energy goals.)**

VOTE: 5 – Yes; 3 – No; 4 – Abstain (3 Absent)

Dissenting comments:

Department of Public Service (PSD): The concept of "little to no changes" is vague and reduces flexibility when adopting a new energy code. Many changes have been made in the past to improve and correct IECC language. Statue would need to be changed to accommodate not having any changes to the IECC (e.g. owner/builder provision and other exemptions, as well as the addition of the HERS path for compliance). The PSD makes revisions/additions to the IECC based on builder/stakeholder feedback during the update process and would consider a request for less modifications along with all the other comments received. This also seems to presume that DFS will adopt the IRC, but the process has not been completed to assess the pros and cons of this approach.

Division of Fire Safety (DFS): Would be able to vote Yes if the first sentence was kept and the second sentence was deleted (focus on few or no changes but not mention IBC/IRC or assume their adoption). Amendments are necessary. We would encourage the rulemaking body to find the pinch points or areas of controversy and make adjustments that support reducing the cost of housing while improving the compliance rate and improving contractor experience and building science.

General Comments:

Associated General Contractors of Vermont (AGC/VT): Adopting IECC with minimal changes streamlines code adoption, aligns with national standards, reduces confusion, and could eventually simplify compliance by eliminating separate Vermont-specific energy codes.

Vermont Housing & Conservation Board (VHCB): Support primarily based on the operational and implementation efficiencies that this change may bring. VT energy goals should still be a priority, however, and if this change is implemented, IECC code adjustments should be considered at the margins in order to maintain a net zero capable pathway. If IECC code evolution begins to show substantial divergence from a clear net zero capable pathway then this issue should be revisited. Accomplishing this analysis will also require Vermont to develop a clearer analysis which defines net zero capable within the context of overall building decarbonization goals and not based on simple payback alone.

Vermont Builders and Remodelers Association (VBRA): At this time, there is no energy efficiency chapter in the IBC, so the commercial section of the IECC needs to be adopted for the foreseeable future. Until DFS adopts a residential building code (IRC), Vermont also needs to adopt the residential section of the IECC. We agree with DFS that the second sentence in the recommendation is confusing, and we disagree with the comment in parentheses.

- 8. Future code update should consider requiring ventilation system testing/
balancing/commissioning to ensure compliance with applicable standards,
and consider whether to add third-party attestation to RBES/CBES certificates.**

VOTE: 10 – Yes; 1 – No; 3 – Abstain (1 Absent)

Dissenting comments:

Associated General Contractors of Vermont (AGC/VT): It adds costly requirements, burdens contractors with more paperwork, and introduces third-party oversight without clear benefits to project outcomes or housing affordability.

General Comments:

Vermont Association of Realtors (VAR): Future code updates need to be carefully considered before adding new standards.

Defining "Authority Having Jurisdiction"

Given the continued discussion regarding appointment of an Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) the BECWG is including the following description of an AHJ, what roles it could fill, and what roles are being done now in regards to energy codes.

An Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) is the organization, office, or individual empowered to enforce a code or standard and to approve equipment, materials, installations, or procedures. In National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) contexts, the AHJ is the body responsible for interpreting and enforcing codes such as fire, electrical, and life-safety standards within a given jurisdiction. If public safety is the primary concern, the AHJ can be a federal, state, local, or other regional department or official, such as a fire chief, fire marshal, building official, electrical inspector, or health/labor department representative, etc. The AHJ's role is to ensure compliance with adopted codes (which become law when adopted by the jurisdiction) and to oversee ongoing safety compliance for a building or facility.

For the Vermont Energy Code context, the AHJ's responsibilities could include:

- 1) Reviewing, amending as needed, and recommending adoption of the statewide Energy Code.
- 2) Conducting Energy Code related plan reviews, permitting, inspections, testing, certification, and reporting.
- 3) Establishing and maintaining Energy Code enforcement infrastructure, including managing appeals and recordkeeping.
- 4) Administering Energy Code guidance, training, and public outreach. (This could be completed by other entities, but the responsibility lies with the AHJ).

Currently the Department of Public Service reviews the IECC when it is updated, holds stakeholder meetings to discuss potential amendments to the IECC (and ASHRAE for CBES), revises the code in consideration of Vermont energy goals, adopts the revised energy code through the state rulemaking process, develops (with partners) energy code support materials, and provides interpretation of energy code language. For CBES the PSD may also provide variances from the energy codes within the guidelines specified in statute². The Energy Efficiency Utilities take the lead on providing consistent energy code technical assistance (including a toll-free energy code assistance hotline operated by Efficiency Vermont) and providing in-person and virtual trainings.

Conclusion

The Building Energy Code Working Group engaged in a series of seven productive and respectful meetings while representing a wide range of interests and perspectives. Building on previous reports by the 2023 Act 47 Building Energy Code Study Committee and the 2024 report of the first year of this Working Group, the 2025 meetings covered in further depth a wide range of topics including: whether and how state government should regulate building construction and energy efficiency; strategies for increasing compliance with energy codes; education and training needs; and specific administrative and legislative changes that could facilitate better building practices.

The BECWG took testimony from stakeholders on the Working Group as well as several practitioners in the field including: residential contractors and developers; real estate agents; Home Energy Rating System raters; property inspectors; and representatives from banking and insurance.

As in previous years, there was majority agreement that energy codes are a subset of building codes and ultimately should be administered consistently, as well as recognition that Vermont's current housing crisis and high cost of construction makes movement in that direction difficult; and therefore, as in the past, there was disagreement on how and when Vermont can achieve that goal.

All BECWG materials, including agendas, minutes, and meeting transcripts are posted on the PSD website³.

² 30 V.S.A. § 53

³ BECWG meeting materials and reports are posted on the PSD website at:

<https://publicservice.vermont.gov/efficiency/building-energy-standards/building-energy-code-working-group>

Appendix A – BECWG 2023 – 2025 Recommendations Summary & Progress

Table 1: Provides detailed status updates on recommendations developed by the 2023 BECSC and 2024 BECWG. 2025 BECWG recommendations (new to this report) are also listed to show the evolution of recommendations. All recommendations are grouped according to the categories listed in green.

Act 47 Building Energy Code Study Committee 2023 Recommendations	Act 151 Building Energy Code Working Group 2024 Recommendations	Updates on 2023 and 2024 Recommendations	Act 151 Building Energy Code Working Group 2025 Recommendations
Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) over Codes			
• Designate the DFS as the statewide “authority having jurisdiction” (AHJ) over all building construction – public, private, commercial, residential. • Clarify the chain of authority from the General Assembly, through DFS, to municipalities. • Establish an advisory committee to advise on the overall transition to a new AHJ, help with future code revisions and examine building failure cases to improve building science and future codes. • PSD continue in role administering the energy codes in support of the AHJ • Develop a certification designation for contractors trained on the energy codes and include the certification on the OPR Contractor Registry and DFS website	• Designate the DFS as the statewide “authority having jurisdiction” over all building construction – public, private, commercial, residential with an appropriation to cover necessary resources. • Establish a process to transition away from municipal staff filing RBES and CBES certificates in town records and towards a process where certificates are filed directly with the state.	• DFS has not been designated as the statewide AHJ, they currently do not have jurisdiction over owner occupied single-family homes.	• The AHJ for energy codes for all buildings should be DFS, starting with public buildings currently under their jurisdiction and extending to single-family upon adequate funding and resources and a phased timeline. • The AHJ for RBES/CBES should transition to DFS in stages by 2030. Transition funding could come from TEPF; ultimately funding would be fees, as with all other DFS programs.

Strategies to increase compliance with Energy Codes			
• Develop a certification designation for contractors trained on the energy codes and include the certification on the OPR Contractor Registry and DFS website.	• Support OPR with the rulemaking process to establish voluntary specialty certifications for residential contractors that are registered in the OPR contractor registry.	• OPR has drafted rules for residential contractors, including certifications for RBES and OSHA but they haven't yet been filed. The exam required to obtain the RBES certification still needs to be completed. OPR was working on that with Energy Futures Group; when their DOE funding was pulled, efforts to develop the test were put on hold pending another source of funds. OPR's focus at this time is identifying and filling gaps in the regulatory structure that impact public protection in the residential contractor profession. Standing up the specialty certifications before the regulatory language is fixed would be premature.	• A Task Force of stakeholders, educators, and state officials should be set up for technical and logistical support for OPR's Residential Contractor registry, e.g., list of trade services, voluntary certifications, credentialing entities.
• Require OPR to update contractor registry (A) so contractors explicitly acknowledge RBES/CBES legal requirements, and (B) to alert consumers to RBES/CBES and provide filtering functionality, e.g., by specialties, location, and certifications.	• Support OPR for website improvements	• OPR is currently engaged in the State of VT project to meet federal ADA accessibility requirements for digital content on websites by April 24, 2026. As part of the project, OPR is remediating substantial amounts of content on its website. It is likely that the residential contractor map will be eliminated as part of the project. OPR would be willing to share available registration data with another entity with more web development capacity.	
• Authorize OPR to update their contract requirements and template for contractor-owner agreements to include a clause acknowledging that energy codes are mandatory.	• Include municipal floodplain administrators in RBES and CBES education and outreach efforts.		

• Amend the energy code update cycle by changing “shall” in the energy code enabling statute to “may”. • Establish a study committee on adopting a statewide residential building code (e.g., IRC)		• This change was made in statute via Act 151(S.253) of 2024.	
Strategies for supporting & funding energy code compliance			
• Establish a role for EEU's to play in supporting energy codes compliance and incentives.	• Establish a role for EEU's to play in supporting energy codes compliance.	• Discussions are ongoing with Dept. of Public Service as part of Demand Resources Planning (DRP) Proceeding.	• A portion (~\$400k) of accumulated RGGI receipts in TEPF (~\$10m) should be used to support energy code compliance, even if no energy savings is attributed (e.g., staff & tech consult, Contractor registry website, marketing).
• Develop a funding plan to pay for start-up and ongoing costs to support the AHJ and energy code administration.	• Create a comprehensive document detailing the costs and benefits associated with energy code administration at DFS and calculate the incremental permit fees that would be required to support ongoing energy code administration.	• DFS does not have the knowledge to provide an accurate assessment of cost. The inspection process, engineering, plan review, 3rd party inspection process are all well outside of our current scope and ability to gauge the possible impact and cost along with a clearly defined scope of responsibility, implementation and responsibility that have not been provided	• Future code update should consider requiring ventilation system testing/ balancing/commissioning to ensure compliance with applicable standards and consider whether to add third-party attestation to RBES/CBES certificates.

Improve process for filing and tracking energy code certificates			
- Expand DFS's current database redesign to incorporate a statewide, central, publicly accessible repository for all Vermont buildings (including all residential) that includes energy code data. - Eliminate filing certificates in town records and the notarization requirement. - Establish a certificate application tool for both CBES and RBES that generates an energy code "permit" before construction and a final certificate upon completion that is part of the DFS database.	- Incorporate RBES and CBES certificates, for buildings currently under DFS jurisdiction, into the DFS permit database expansion. - Ensure that the detailed inputs from RBES and CBES certificates are logged as unique data points in the database to ensure the data are accessible for future analyses.	- The DFS revised permit database is in process and is estimated to go live Sept. 2026. Changes to Title 30 may be required to define the use of the stored documents and whether this storage will take the place of existing filing and posting requirements. - The information provided to DFS from the PSD have been formatted to be "smart fields" that will be searchable within the new system.	DFS should become the single repository of RBES and CBES compliance certificates by 7/1/27, including for single-family residential. (Filing in town records would no longer be required.)
Strategies to Improve Workforce Training and Support			
Coordinate and support energy code trainings and certifications. - Develop training materials - Conduct regular trainings		<u>2024:</u> - RBES/CBES in-person and virtual training sessions: 39, with 751 participants - Total views for on-demand RBES and CBES trainings: 169 <u>2025 (1/1/25 – 9/30/25):</u> - RBES/CBES in-person and virtual training sessions: 28, with 591 participants - Total views on-demand RBES/CBES trainings: 379	The "Energy Module" currently required for certain DFS trades and OPR professions should be updated to focus on energy code requirements relevant to those trades/professions, rather than statute language.
Develop "circuit rider" on-site energy code services statewide.			
Increase training and support for Energy Consultants.			
Increase and coordinate building science and energy code trainings including weatherization.		The Vermont Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) has developed the Vermont Innovation, Efficiency, and Weatherization (VIEW) center to provide training on building science and weatherization.	

• Coordinate the Energy Code Assistance Center (call center) with other code support efforts.		<u>2024:</u> •Managed ECAC calls and emails: 440 (Residential) + 131 (Commercial) = 571 calls/emails •Views on the ECAC webpage received: 1,336 <u>2025 (1/1/25 – 9/30/25):</u> •Managed ECAC calls and emails: 468 (Residential) + 61(Commercial) = 529 calls/emails •Views on the ECAC webpage received:1,234	
Increase Awareness of Building Energy Codes and Requirements			
• Develop and mail out bill stuffers reminding about energy codes • Work with lenders and attorneys to include energy information on loan closing checklists • Use state, regional, and municipal websites to reinforce energy code requirements. • Create a radio show on building science and energy codes to educate the public	Work with lenders, attorneys, real estate professionals, and home inspectors to include acknowledgement of RBES in the residential real estate transaction process.		

2023 Charge 3: Evaluation of cost-effectiveness analysis for RBES and CBES.	2024 Charge 3: Consider whether or not the State should adopt a statewide building code.	2025 Charge 3: Consider whether or not the State should adopt a statewide building code.	
• Continue calculating energy code "cost effectiveness" as has been done historically. • Establish a new committee of energy, economic, and housing experts to research and address whether and how to best include the cost of carbon and non-energy benefits in building energy codes for new and existing buildings.	Provide the necessary resources to ensure the DFS and the IRC Working Group can answer key questions about the costs, benefits, and impacts (including life safety impacts) associated with adopting the IRC, starting with buildings currently under DFS jurisdiction.	• DFS reports that they have developed a preliminary overview of what the IRC would look like from their perspective, but they have very limited bandwidth to address this. They will be scheduling another IRC meeting so some of the key challenges can be discussed.	• Future energy codes should be IECC with few or no changes. IECC updates are folded into next IBC/IRC updates, so this ultimately could eliminate separate VT energy codes altogether. (Effectively this may mean no longer accounting for VT energy goals.)

Appendix B – Other strategies considered and not recommended by the Working Group.

1. Continue existing RBES/CBES update process.
2. Adopt residential building construction code by date certain.
3. Clarify statutory authority for municipalities to enforce RBES/CBES.
4. Establish database of technical details behind consumer complaints and litigation.
5. Add "designer" to RBES compliance certificate.
6. Add "HERS Rater" (now under PSD) and "Energy Professional" to OPR's regulated professions.
7. Require "net-zero-ready" new construction by 2030.
8. Require credentials, not simply registration, for Residential Contractors.
9. Require projects using State funds to verify that contractors are registered appropriately (or are licensed tradespeople).
10. Consider removing from statute 30 V.S.A. § 51 (g) "Action for damages" for noncompliance with RBES.

Discussion and voting on these recommendations can be found on the BECWG website,⁴ particularly in the minutes for meetings 5, 6 and 7.

⁴ <https://publicservice.vermont.gov/efficiency/building-energy-standards/building-energy-code-working-group>