

## Buildings, Infrastructure & Housing (BIH) Working Group

Proposed Recommendations and Actions

DRAFT / For discussion only

Updated 4/17/24

Proposed recommendations resulting from BIH WG discussions to date:

RECOMMENDATION	ACTIONS	IMPLEMENTATION DETAILS
<p>Continue the progress on making homes and businesses more energy efficient by investing in insulation and heating systems</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain and extend funding and financing (ensure stability &amp; longevity of funding sources beyond 2030)</li> <li>• Encourage and expand education, outreach, and technical support for programs that increase uptake of weatherization and clean heating systems</li> <li>• Increase access for renters, low-income, and rural residents</li> <li>• Advance zero-emissions equipment standards [Ania/Michael to follow up on recommendations]</li> <li>• PROVIDE GUIDANCE HERE ON TARGETS FOR HEAT PUMPS AND WEATHERIZATION – TBD</li> </ul>	<p>Funding/financing details</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prioritize programs that maximize carbon reduction per dollar invested.</li> <li>• Idea mentioned by WG member: Pre-weatherization challenge: Create a funding source for home repairs and make them tied to contractors who are licensed</li> <li>• Extend financing to more commercial customers</li> </ul> <p>Education, outreach, and support details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fund community initiatives such as “navigator” programs, prioritizing low-income/disadvantaged communities</li> <li>• [Need to discuss role of other/complementary strategies, such as system controls and/or renewable fuels standard]</li> </ul> <p>Increasing access details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prioritize HEAP enrolled/HEAP eligible households [Careful, this needs some nuance, because there are many low-income Mainers not on this list]</li> </ul>

Establish strong systems and processes to support rapid adoption and compliance with increasingly climate-friendly building codes and standards.

- Strengthen the process for adopting new building codes to reach net-zero carbon emissions for new construction in Maine by 2035
- Establish sustainable funding and support contractors and code enforcement officers with training and technical assistance
- Leverage new federal standards and voluntary certifications to go “above and beyond” Maine building codes

Improving building code process:

- Move building code adoption and enforcement to the new Office of Community Affairs
- Consider amending state law to require that we not be more than one version behind current IECC code
- End exemptions: Eliminating the exemptions for enforcing code.
- Take steps in defining a more ambitious stretch code
- Track the trajectory of IECC codes toward net-zero targets (for some or all segments) and determine which sectors might lead a more rapid transition

Support contractor community:

- Licensing: Explore the potential of contractor licensing to accelerate adoption of and compliance with increasingly climate-smart building codes.
  - Build on the platform created by LD 1929.
  - Help contractors to achieve licensure with funding, education & training

Voluntary standards:

- Follow the lead of Maine Housing and require data from all Maine Housing recipients. Set standard for all publicly funded buildings.
- Incentivize ZER standard for manufactured homes [Pat to follow up with Jesse]

<p>Promote the manufacture and use of climate-friendly building products</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify and address the barriers for attracting a CLT plant and other future bio-based materials manufacturing in Maine.</li> <li>• Increase awareness, educate, and provide technical assistance around embodied carbon alongside operations carbon.</li> <li>• Establish a funding source to address the current cost gap between high-embodied carbon (ie steel &amp; cement) and low-embodied (ie wood and bioproducts) building products.</li> <li>• Require whole life carbon accounting for buildings over [a certain size], particularly buildings with state funding. [NEED TO FLESH THIS OUT]</li> <li>• Incentivize, through the Historic Preservation Tax Credit and other sources, preserving old buildings that have large amounts of embodied carbon. [NEED TO FLESH THIS OUT OR MAKE A DETAIL POINT]</li> </ul>	<p>Details on awareness, education, and technical assistance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Provide technical assistance to municipalities and larger institutional projects specifically on these issues (via Community Resilience Partnership?)</li> <li>○ Contractor licensing can improve uptake and awareness (link to other mention in our recommendations.)</li> </ul> <p>Details on addressing the cost gap</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Invest in demonstration projects and support for Maine firms to produce Environmental Product Declarations.</li> <li>○ Incentivize low-carbon materials in retrofitting, avoid encouraging the use of high-carbon materials, such as foam insulation, in existing and future incentive programs</li> </ul>
<p>Support measures that both reduce carbon and improve resilience</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support distributed energy resources, such as solar and storage (including using electric vehicle batteries as storage)</li> <li>• Manage the impact of building loads on the grid (link to demand management recommendations)</li> <li>• Assist Mainers to prepare their homes and businesses to be resilient in the face of climate disasters, focusing on low-income households and Mainers with the fewest resources to prepare.</li> <li>• Support coordination that will bring efficiency upgrades to buildings recovering from natural disasters</li> </ul>	<p>On resilience actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Multiple actions in this document support more resilient homes (stronger building codes and insulation, local energy storage, etc.)</li> <li>○ Maine buildings face new challenges, such as wildfire risk.</li> <li>○ Basic steps such as having flood insurance and a sump pump with a battery back-up are important.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Tax policy and energy policy can help with home repair</li> <li>○ Several ideas from WG members are better contained in the Community Resilience WG <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Getting out of harm's way (flooding, and other risks)</li> <li>○ Safe spaces for communities if houses are destroyed or damaged.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>Reduce emissions from industrial sources and make them more competitive</p>	<p>In progress</p>	
<p>Continue to lead by example in publicly-funded buildings</p>	<p>Current language:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Use procurement rules and coordinated planning efforts for state government to promote high-efficiency lighting, heating, and cooling; climate-friendly construction materials; and renewable energy use for reduced operating costs and emissions reductions. The state will produce a “Lead by Example” plan for state government by February 2021</li> <li>● Enhance grant and loan programs to support efficiency and renewable energy programs in municipal, tribal, school, and public housing construction and improvements. Provide recognition programs for those projects making outstanding efforts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●</li> </ul>