

Dear (HBAA, COAA) member,

Alabama was recently selected, as one of eight states, to take part in a residential energy code field study, being supported with funding from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). The purpose of the field study is to determine what impact residential energy codes have on home energy savings. This project will include two years of free education, training, outreach and technical assistance for builders, code officials, trades and others involved in the residential housing market.

In order to gauge the energy savings potential, the project will include both a pre- and post-program field study. This field study will consist of a project team member conducting site visits to randomly selected single-family residential construction projects to observe several construction features, including: insulation R-values, window U-value and SHGC, and duct and envelope tightness. Each of these features will need to be observed 63 times to make the study statistically valid.

Although participation in this project is voluntary, the project team will need help from builders and code officials to complete the field study. Specifically, members of the project team will be contacting randomly chosen jurisdictions to collect a list of single-family permits issued within the past 12 months. The purpose of the permit data is to randomly choose a few homes to visit and collect data on the construction features listed above. The project team will need to obtain permission from builders in order to gain access to the construction site. In deciding whether or not to participate in the project, please consider the following:

- The purpose of the study is to evaluate the impact energy codes have on home energy use.
- Each home that is part of the project will only be visited once and therefore it is not possible for the data collection team to determine whether or not the home is in compliance with the energy code.
- No personally identifiable information (i.e., street address, lot number, builder, jurisdiction name, etc.) will be reported to DOE, nor will this information ever be made public.
- The project team will not visit any home that is already occupied by the owner.
- Code officials will not accompany the data collection team on site visits and the collected data will not be shared with building departments.
- Most site visits will be completed within 1 hour.
- Only aggregated, state-level data will be reported at the end of each pre- and post-field study.
- If the project team cannot collect enough data (63 observations of key features), then the project will not be able to continue to the education, training, outreach and technical assistance phase.

Project team members from the Britt/Makela Group and the Institute for Market Transformation (IMT) will be contacting jurisdictions and builders that are chosen as part of the random selection process in January, 2015. In addition to the data collection effort described above, IMT is looking for jurisdictions

to participate in a short interview or survey process to understand how various building departments across the state are administering the Alabama Energy and Residential Code. IMT will be reaching out to jurisdictions in January, 2015. If you are a code official and you would like to participate in the interview or survey process, please contact Todd Sims (todd@imt.org) or 202-525-2883.

For more information about the project and to sign-up for project-related updates, visit the project website: www.alenergycode.org, or contact Ryan Meres, (ryan@imt.org) or 678-327-4809.