

# Meeting Summary Report: Inaugural meeting of the Building Energy Codes Working Group Advisory Committee

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## IEA-EBC Working Group on Building Energy Codes

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# 1 Summary

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- **Working Group Structure and Objectives:** Meli Stylianou outlined the purpose and structure of the Building Energy Codes working group, highlighting the roles of the Advisory Committee and Secretariat, and emphasizing the group's collaborative and knowledge-sharing approach.
  - **Working Group Purpose:** Meli Stylianou explained that the working group is designed to facilitate knowledge sharing and collaborative research on building energy codes, distinguishing it from more formal Annexes that require government approval. The group aims to collectively develop recommendations and address global code-related challenges.
  - **Advisory Committee Role:** The Advisory Committee, composed of experts from various countries, is tasked with identifying key code issues, acting as a liaison between the working group and code researchers, and expanding the network of collaborators. Meli used Danielle Krauel's work in Canada as an example of the committee's engagement with national code priorities.
  - **Secretariat Responsibilities:** The Secretariat, including Brodie Hobson, Matt Young, and Meli, is responsible for organizing meetings, coordinating collaboration among experts, and disseminating knowledge through events such as symposiums and professional opportunities. They also interact with the EBC and provide planning and semi-annual updates.
- **National and Regional Priorities in Building Energy Codes:** Participants shared their respective countries' or organizations' priorities and challenges in building energy codes, covering topics such as resilience, embodied carbon, compliance, and climate adaptation.
  - **Australian Priorities:** Michael Dodd described Australia's focus on building resilience to heat stress and bushfire impacts, embodied carbon, electrification of existing buildings, and the integration of renewable energy and energy management systems into building codes.
  - **Canadian Priorities:** Danielle and Brodie highlighted Canada's emphasis on embodied carbon, existing building codes, code simplification, economic competitiveness, and emerging interests in data center energy use, with Brodie aligning their priorities with Danielle's.
  - **European and Danish Perspectives:** Jens Laustsen discussed Denmark's and the EU's focus on zero emission buildings, life cycle assessment, compliance, and minimum energy performance standards, while also noting the importance of learning from global approaches to address regional weaknesses.
  - **French Initiatives:** Louis Bourru outlined its regulatory focus on lifecycle assessment, embodied carbon, energy performance certificates, and addressing summer comfort in both new and existing buildings, with upcoming regulations expanding to more building types.
  - **Japanese Code Challenges:** Takao Sawachi emphasized the need for Japanese codes to accommodate a wide range of technologies, including unevaluated conventional technologies, and to improve methodologies for evaluating energy performance, particularly for heat pumps and demand controlled ventilation.
  - **New Zealand's Approach:** Richard London described New Zealand's work on overheating metrics, indoor environmental quality, and holistic building performance, as well as the challenges of aligning research and policy in a changing political landscape.
  - **Swedish and Irish Priorities:** Sarah Petersson discussed Sweden's focus on implementing EU directives and integrating buildings with energy systems, while Simon Jones reflected on Ireland's emphasis on indoor environmental quality, national retrofit plans, and overheating risk management.
  - **US and International Code Development:** Ryan Colker and Ben Rabe described the International Code Council's and New Buildings Institute's work on compliance tools, expanding code coverage to greenhouse

gas emissions, capacity building, and decarbonization, with Ben also noting efforts in resilience and embodied carbon integration.

- **Research and Technical Assistance:** Ellen Franconi and Matt from Pacific Northwest National Lab discussed research on resilience metrics, code impact analysis using extreme weather data, and technical assistance for state code updates, with Ellen also mentioning advisory roles in resilience-related projects.
- **Collaboration and Knowledge Sharing Strategies:** Ellen, Meredydd Evans, Richard, Jens, and Meli discussed strategies for enhancing collaboration, mapping group priorities and capabilities, and increasing global engagement, particularly with countries from the Global South and developing economies.
  - **Framework for Collaboration:** Ellen proposed developing a framework to map out group priorities and capabilities, enabling members to identify commonalities and resources for mutual benefit, which Meli supported as a way forward.
  - **Global Engagement:** Meredydd emphasized the importance of expanding collaboration beyond Europe and wealthier countries, suggesting active efforts to engage participants from developing economies and bridge gaps between different international contexts.
  - **Information Sharing:** Richard highlighted New Zealand's collaborative efforts with various international organizations and the value of making standards and research freely accessible, especially for Pacific Island nations, to facilitate broader knowledge transfer.
  - **Learning from Diverse Approaches:** Jens noted the value of learning from countries with different climate challenges and legislative approaches, particularly regarding heating and overheating, to address regional weaknesses in European codes.
- **Action Items and Next Steps for the Working Group:** Meli summarized the group's next steps, including preparing for a focused discussion on overheating at the next meeting, developing a document repository, and exploring the use of AI tools for code interrogation, with Brodie, Simon, and Takao contributing to the planning.
  - **Overheating Focus for Next Meeting:** Meli proposed that the next meeting center on the topic of overheating, asking participants to come prepared to share their work and documentation on the subject, with general agreement from the group.
  - **Document Repository Development:** Meli suggested creating a library of relevant documents addressing overheating, resilience, and indoor air quality from different countries, with Brodie offering to collect and organize these resources, and Simon providing links to existing summaries.
  - **AI Tools for Code Interrogation:** Meli mentioned ongoing work on developing an application using large language models to interrogate building codes, envisioning a chatbot-like tool to facilitate access to code information across countries.
  - **Engagement of Additional Participants:** Jens, Takao, and Meli discussed the importance of inviting more participants from the Global South, including contacts from India and Brazil, to ensure broader representation and relevance in future discussions.
  - **Preparation of Presentation Materials:** Ellen inquired about compiling slides for the next meeting's presentation, to which Meli agreed, encouraging participants to prepare and share materials in advance.

## 2 Action items

- **Sharing Meeting Recording:** Send the meeting recording to all participants, including those who were unable to join. (Meli)
- **Resource Repository for Overheating and Resilience:** Collect and organize documents from different countries addressing overheating, resilience, and indoor air quality for a shared repository. (Brodie, Meli)

- **Reference Document Links:** Send links to the Ventilation Information Papers on the AIVC website to Meli for reference in building the repository. (Simon)
- **Reference Document Links (Occupant Considerations):** Send links to documents on occupant considerations in building codes to Brodie for inclusion in the repository. (Brodie)
- **Inviting Global South Participants:** Contact potential participants from India and Brazil to join future meetings, especially for discussions on overheating. (Meli, Ryan, Meredydd)
- **Next Meeting Preparation:** Prepare and share a single slide and available reference documents ahead of the next meeting on current work related to overheating in building codes. (All participants)
- **Scheduling Next Meeting:** Send a Doodle poll to find a suitable time for the next meeting and include additional invitees. (Meli)