

PHRC News

PHRC

Getting in touch

Contact us to find out more about the PHRC or to obtain assistance.

www.engr.psu.edu/phrc

PHRC

Pennsylvania Housing Research/
Resource Center

Penn State University
219 Sackett Building
University Park, PA 16802

Tel: (814) 865-2341

Fax: (814) 863-7304

E-mail: phrc@psu.edu

Director: Mark Fortney

Director of Research: Eric Burnett
Training and Education Development
Specialist: Ken Sagan

Land Use and Development Specialist:
Scott Brown

Admin. Assistant: Michelle McMullen

Staff Assistant: Tracy DeSoto

PHRC at Penn College

Pennsylvania Housing Resource
Center at the
Pennsylvania College of Technology
Technology Transfer Center
One College Avenue
Williamsport, PA 17701

Tel: (570) 327-4768

Fax: (570) 320-5239

E-mail: phrc@pct.edu

Director: Bill Van der Meer

PENNSTATE



PA Housing Conference

February 11, 2004
Monroeville

&

February 26, 2004
Valley Forge
(Just off the turnpike)



**You don't
want to miss
this one!!**

See insert for more details!

Building Code Training

The mission of the PHRC is to improve the quality and affordability of housing in Pennsylvania. Facilitating the implementation of Pennsylvania's new building code is consistent with our mission. It is also part of our responsibility to the home building industry and the citizens of Pennsylvania.

Currently the PHRC has developed 11 code-related training programs, three of which are new (see description below). These programs are targeted at a wide variety of audiences including builders, remodelers, trade contractors, design professionals, vocational-technical teachers as well as building code officials. The table below provides an overview of the training programs the PHRC has delivered plus the number of attendees.

These programs are held by local builders and trade associations, individual companies and through the Pennsylvania Construction Code Academy (PCCA). A complete list of training being offered is included in the calendar of events on page 5.



New Programs

IRC's Plumbing Requirements:

The PHRC developed this 2-day program to prepare participants for the residential plumbing inspector test required by PA's Uniform Construction Code (UCC). This program provides an overview of residential plumbing principles and an understanding of the plumbing requirements of the 2003 IRC. Attendees receive a manual, examples and practice exams. This program has been organized primarily through the PCCA.

IRC's Mechanical Requirements:

The PHRC developed this 2-day program to prepare participants for the residential mechanical inspector test required by PA's Uniform Construction Code (UCC). This program provides an overview of residential HVAC principles and an understanding of the mechanical requirements of the 2003 IRC. Attendees receive a manual, examples, practice exams. This program has been organized primarily through the PCCA.

IRC Refresher and 2003 Update Program

This program is the newest addition to the PHRC's training initiatives. This 1-day program provides an overview of the differences between the 2000 IRC and the 2003 IRC. The program is intended for individuals who have experience with the 2000 IRC. It focuses on common code violations and how to avoid them. The program also provides an overview of the Uniform Construction Code (UCC) regulations and how they will be implemented. This program is intended for building code officials, builders, remodelers and design professionals.

| Program | | Programs Held | Attendees |
|---------------|--|---------------|--------------|
| General | Comprehensive International Residential Code | 73 | 2,601 |
| | BOCA/CABO Transition Program | 11 | 437 |
| | Overview of the IRC's Plumbing Requirements | 7 | 189 |
| | Overview of the IRC's Mechanical Requirements | 7 | 191 |
| | Pennsylvania's New Energy Code | 10 | 414 |
| | IRC Update Program | 1 | 30 |
| | Other (PCMA, Moisture Control, Stormwater, etc.) | 23 | 912 |
| Code Official | Comprehensive International Residential Code | 6 | 216 |
| | Overview of the IRC's Plumbing Requirements | 6 | 145 |
| | Overview of the IRC's Mechanical Requirements | 6 | 145 |
| | Pennsylvania's New Energy Code | 4 | 82 |
| TOTAL | | 148 | 5,362 |

NAHB Student Chapter

This year the student chapter of the National Association of Home Builders at Penn State has 27 members. At the annual awards dinner held on November 13, the following presentations were made:

Each year, the student chapter of the NAHB at Penn State is generously supported by various organizations. This student support is much appreciated and seen as a very positive form of support by the students involved.

Six \$900 Travel Awards to attend the NAHB Convention in Las Vegas in January 2004 were presented:

- The Ryland Group, Inc. funded a travel award for Chad Owens (CEE);
- The National Housing Endowment funded a travel award for Xing Shi (CEE) presented by J. Roger Glunt and Bruce Silver;
- The Pennsylvania Builders Association funded four travel awards for the following students:
 - Jennifer Hamp (AE)
 - Joseph Henry (AE)
 - Kristy Novak (ARCH)
 - Frederick Peters (CEE/AE)

These awards were presented by Roger Zimmer and David Martin both from PBA.

Three \$1,000 Scholarships were awarded:

- Joseph Henry (AE) was presented the Henrietta Hankin Scholarship by Richard Hankin
- Timothy Mueller (AE) received the NHE/Glunt Undergraduate Scholarship
- Chad Owens received the BA of Central PA Scholarship presented by Chuck Colyer

An Outstanding Service Award for \$750 was awarded to Kelly Brennan, President of the NAHB Student Chapter at Penn State.

Since the start of the academic year, the student chapter has:

- Visited the Summerset Development in Pittsburgh
- Visited IBACOS in Pittsburgh: a Build America company
- Attended a talk on renovations/alterations to Falling Water, the famous Frank Lloyd Wright house in PA.
- Participated in a number of Habitat for Humanity help sessions.
- On December 4, a local architect, Mr. Fred Fernsler, will be talking on student housing.

Governor's Institute

This summer saw a continuation of the code training for Career and Technical Educators (CTE), with the PHRC presenting the *Comprehensive International Residential Code* course to educators at the Governor's Institute on Architecture and Construction, held July 14 - 18, 2003, in Danville, PA.

The Governor's Institute this year targeted Architecture and Construction in anticipation of the building code being enacted this school year. The institute focuses on methods and practices that teachers can take back to their classrooms. Of the 80 attendees at the conference, 60 teachers elected to participate in the code training. They gathered information to take back to their classrooms and learned how the teaching of the code can increase the standards set forth by the state in education.

In response to this program and program presented the previous summer, plus individual teacher requests has prompted the PHRC to develop a technical education proposal for CTE teachers that has been submitted to the Pennsylvania Department of Education for approval.

VisitAbility Project Underway

The PHRC is participating in a project funded by the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency (PHFA) to evaluate and promote VisitAbility in Pennsylvania. VisitAbility specifically encourages:

- One Zero-step entrance
- All doors should be 36"
- Basic accessibility in the bathroom

The PHRC is a partner on this project with Life and Independence for Today, a non-profit agency from St. Mary's, PA. The project is working with eight builders across Pennsylvania to implement these basic design approaches in a series of houses. The PHRC is providing assistance in documenting and evaluating the costs and technical challenges builders may have to overcome to meet the three simple design requirements. The PHRC will develop a series of technical reports documenting the findings and recommendations to builders and design professionals. This project will be completed in the spring of 2005. For additional information contact Mark Fortney at (814) 863-2366.

Land Development

Stormwater Workshops Get Rave Reviews

Over 300 builders, developers, design professionals, and municipal and state regulatory officials attended the PHRC's stormwater management workshops. The workshops covered issues related to implementation of Pennsylvania's revised stormwater management policy. The programs, titled "Stormwater Management in Pennsylvania: A New Approach," were held in five locations across the state during the summer of 2003.

Pennsylvania's revised stormwater policy was officially implemented statewide early in 2003 in response to the Federal EPA's continued implementation of the Federal Clean Water Act. In addition to controlling peak rates of runoff from land development activities using detention basin technology, the new policy requires the construction of engineered infiltration and water quality facilities to better manage urban runoff. In addition to providing an overview of the revised Stormwater Management policy and implementation procedures, these workshops presented an enlightening perspective on the accuracy and limitations of available computational methods and tools commonly used by design professionals for the analysis of urban runoff. The science underlying infiltration processes was also explained to provide attendees a clear understanding of how natural and engineered infiltration practices function in a variety of environments. Potential impacts from inappropriately designed or installed infiltration facilities were discussed, along with construction and operational issues. Based on the written comments received, attendees found the workshops eye-opening and extremely useful.

Guidelines for Residential Site Development Prepared

Scott Brown, Land Use and Development Specialist, of the PHRC has prepared a draft document to use as a catalyst for continued discussion and development of a set of residential development guidelines for the state. The draft document entitled "Guidelines for Residential Site Improvement" was prepared in response to a specific request from PBA's Land Development Task Force. This document was compiled from the following reference documents:

"Proposed Model Land Development Standards and Accompanying Model State Enabling Legislation," U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, June 1993.

"Residential Site Improvement Standards," New Jersey Administrative Code, Title 5, Chapter 21, adopted January 1997, revised December 2002.

"Performance Streets, A concept and Model Standards for Residential Streets," Bucks County Planning Commission, 1980.

"PennSCAPES, Pennsylvania Strategies, Codes, and People Environments," The Hammer Center, School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture, Penn State University, March 2003 (on CD).

This document is intended to be a first step in the process of creating a set of uniform residential development guidelines for use in Pennsylvania. We appreciate PBA's willingness to provide the seed to jump start this initiative. We are interested in learning your views. Please contact Scott Brown at (814) 863-2990.

Scott Brown appointed to DEP Oversight Committee

Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Secretary Kathleen A. McGinty has appointed Scott Brown of the PHRC, along with 24 other committee members, to serve on a newly formed oversight committee that will guide the creation of Pennsylvania's Stormwater Management Practices Manual.

This manual will support the implementation of federal and state water quality programs aimed at improving the environmental quality our streams and rivers. The manual will emphasize innovative best management practices that encourage on-site stormwater management and increased groundwater infiltration as a means to minimize stormwater discharges and limit the quantity of surface pollutants entering Pennsylvania's streams. This manual will ultimately help improve water quality throughout the Commonwealth.

For more information on best management practices, visit the PA PowerPort at www.state.pa.us, Keyword: "DEP Water Management."

Calendar of Events

For details on programs below, visit www.engr.psu.edu/ctc.

Training Programs for General Audience:

Comprehensive International Residential Code

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| January 27-28, 2004 | Upper Providence Township |
| February 16-17, 2004 | North Suburban BA |
| April 5-6, 2004 | North Suburban BA (tentative) |
| April 12-13, 2004 | North Suburban BA (tentative) |
| April 14-15, 2004 | Wayne/Pike BA (tentative) |

Overview of the IRC Plumbing Requirements

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| January 9, 2004 | PFS Corporation |
| January 15, 2004 | Greater Dubois Area BA |
| February 18, 2004 | PA Association of Plumbing, Heating, Cooling Contractors, Inc. |

Overview of the IRC Mechanical Requirements

| | |
|------------------|------------------------|
| January 15, 2004 | Greater Dubois Area BA |
|------------------|------------------------|

IRC Update Program

| | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| February 12, 2004 | Lehigh Valley BA |
|-------------------|------------------|

A Housing Conference:

| | |
|-------------------|--------------|
| February 11, 2004 | Monroeville |
| February 26, 2004 | Valley Forge |

PHRC Industry Advisory Council Meetings:

| | |
|------------------|----------------------------|
| April 15, 2004 | Penn College, Williamsport |
| October 14, 2004 | Harrisburg |

Training Programs for Code Officials:

Comprehensive International Residential Code

| | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| January 8-9, 2004 | Cumberland County, PCCA |
| January 8-9, 2004 | Westmoreland County, PCCA |
| January 8-9, 2004 | Chester County, PCCA |
| February 26-27, 2004 | Crawford County, PCCA |
| February 26-27, 2004 | Lycoming County, PCCA |
| March 4-5, 2004 | Luzerne County, PCCA |
| March 4-5, 2004 | Clearfield County, PCCA |

Overview of the IRC Plumbing Requirements

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| January 15-16, 2004 | Clearfield County, PCCA |
| January 15-16, 2004 | Cumberland County, PCCA |
| May 13-14, 2004 | Luzerne County, PCCA |
| May 13-14, 2004 | Crawford County, PCCA |
| June 24-25, 2004 | Chester County, PCCA |
| June 24-25, 2004 | Westmoreland County, PCCA |

Overview of the IRC Mechanical Requirements

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| January 29-30, 2004 | Clearfield County, PCCA |
| January 29-30, 2004 | Chester County, PCCA |
| March 18-19, 2004 | Cumberland County, PCCA |
| March 18-19, 2004 | Crawford County, PCCA |
| June 10-11, 2004 | Westmoreland County, PCCA |
| June 10-11, 2004 | Luzerne County, PCCA |

Pennsylvania's New Energy Code

| | |
|-------------------|---------------------------|
| February 13, 2004 | Luzerne County, PCCA |
| February 13, 2004 | Crawford County, PCCA |
| April 30, 2004 | Westmoreland County, PCCA |
| April 30, 2004 | Cumberland County, PCCA |
| June 29, 2004 | Clearfield County, PCCA |
| June 29, 2004 | Chester County, PCCA |

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The Pennsylvania Housing Research/Resource Center
219 Sackett Building
University Park, PA 16802
Phone: 814-865-2341
Fax: 814-863-7304

Membership

Leadership Members

Bradford & Burns
Builders Association of Northwestern PA
Cannon Custom Homes
CertainTeed Corporation
Dow Chemical Company
DuPont Nonwovens
Glunt Development Co., Inc.
Governor's Office of Housing & Community
Revitalization
Granor Price Homes
Hankin Group
HBA of Chester and Delaware Counties
Lehigh Valley Builders Association
Mercer County Builders Association
Newsome, Roy
Office of Community Development & Housing
PA Department of Community & Economic
Development
PA Manufactured Housing Association
Pennsylvania Association of Code Officials
Pennsylvania Builders Association
Pennsylvania College of Technology
Pennsylvania State University
Ryland Group, Inc.
Superior Walls of America, Ltd.

Supporting Members

84 Lumber
Benjamin Obdyke Incorporated
Builders Association of Central Pennsylvania
Cedar Knoll Builders
Comfort Home Corporation
Greater Dubois Builders
HBA of Berks County
Irwin Contracting
Lackawanna HBA
Lebanon County Builders Association
Liberty Homes Custom Builders
Pennsylvania Concrete Masonry Association
Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency
Pulte Home Corporation
S&A Homes
Somerset County Builders Association
Weyerhaeuser Company
York County Builders Association

Patron Members

Alan Hawman Architect
Blair County Builders Association
Borough of Fox Chapel
City of Uniontown
Concord Township
Crouse and Company of Somerset, LLC
David Sampsel Construction, Inc.

Energy Services Group, Inc.
Engineering Projects Incorporated
Fine Line Homes, Inc.
Franklin County Builders Association
Insurance Restoration Service
JHW C/M Consultant
KBA Engineering P.C.
Kearney Inspections, Inc.
Larson Design Group, Inc.
Madison Engineering
Middle Department Inspection Agency
Municipal Support Services, Inc.
Nolen Companies, Inc.
North Suburban Builders Association
Perry L. Cisney Inc.
Pittsburgh Cultural Trust
Pocono Builders Association
Pulte Homes, Inc.
Queen Engineering
Ray-Core, Inc.
Reed E. Hoffman, RA, PC
Spectrum Properties
Stanley Construction Company
Steven H. Deeming Architect
T.H. Properties
Uniontown Redevelopment Authority
Westmoreland Professional Builders Assoc.
Woodloch Builders
Wyomissing Borough