

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

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PENNSTATE



New Faces at the PHRC

The Pennsylvania Housing Research Center welcomes two new people to our staff.



Ken Sagan is the Training and Education Development Specialist. Ken provides leadership and direction for the development, implementation and management of technical training programs for builders and remodelers, design professionals and building code officials. He also serves as a liaison with state and federal agencies, trade associations and individuals in the construction industry.

Ken holds a BS in Workforce Education and Development and is presently working on his Master's degree with an emphasis in post-secondary education and industrial training. Before joining the staff of PHRC, he served as a partner in a Harrisburg, PA engineering firm that specialized in the design of plumbing and

HVAC systems. More recently, as the owner of a State College area plumbing, electrical and HVAC company, he led a team of 20 employees contracted primarily in design and installation in custom homes and light commercial projects.



Scott Brown, P.E., Scott Brown, P.E. has been appointed as PHRC's Land Use and Development Specialist. His responsibilities include the development of research programs and other activities related to "smart growth" and sustainable site design. He will be pursuing the development of science based standards, guidelines, and procedures for the design and construction of subdivisions and other housing developments. Scott will also provide scientific and technical support for the development of innovative design standards and procedures for site development, particularly as they relate to the implementation of best management practices for stormwater in Pennsylvania.

Scott has over 23 years of experience in the areas of land development, stormwater management, urban drainage design, and environmental studies. He holds a BS and MS in Civil Engineering from Penn State, and is a licensed Professional Engineer in Pennsylvania, New York, Ohio, and Virginia.

We are confident that the technical knowledge and practical skills that both Ken and Scott bring with them to the PHRC will enhance our ability to better serve the housing industries and the citizens of Pennsylvania.

Reviews
Reviews
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10th PA Housing Conference

The PHRC's 10th annual PA Housing Conference was highly successful. The program was held in three different locations: Monroeville, Philadelphia, and State College.

The program focused on mold in houses, design and construction, basements and crawlspaces and an update on the Uniform Construction Code. Over 300 builders, developers, code officials, and government representatives attended the three sessions.

We would like to thank all of our supporters (speakers, sponsors and attendees) who helped make this year's program a success.

Wood Frame Design for Buildings

The PHRC held a hands-on workshop on "Wood Frame Design for Buildings (NDS-97 Based)" on May 21 and 22 in Harrisburg that provided an overview of the basic principles and an opportunity to carry out problem solving activities. Of the 24 attendees, 15 were engineers and the others were code officials, builders, designers, and manufacturers.

What the attendees said...

"I found the program to be very thorough. The visual aids to help explain concepts/ hand-outs and material were excellent."

Lynne Walshaw, Ritz-Craft Corporation

"Information is directly applicable to practice"

Ken Robinson, Kenneth B. Robinson & Associates

Updates

UCC Update

In November 1999, the Uniform Construction Code (UCC), Act 45 of 1999, was signed into law. The legislation directed the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) to promulgate regulations to implement a uniform statewide building code in Pennsylvania. DLI has divided the regulations into two parts: the first addressing training and certification of code officials, and the second addressing administrative issues.

The final-form training and certification regulation was published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin on April 13. DLI began accepting certification applications on July 15. DLI has published a booklet on code official registration and certification requirements. A copy of the booklet can be downloaded from www.dli.state.pa.us or by calling DLI at 717-787-3323.

On May 3, 2002, the DLI submitted its proposed administration and enforcement regulations to the Office of the Attorney General. On June 10, the Department received three substantive questions from that office, which they are currently answering. Once the questions are answered by DLI, review by the Attorney General will continue. After approval by the Attorney General, the proposed regulation will be submitted to the Independent Regulatory Review Commission and the legislative committees, and a 30-day public comment period will occur, with three hearing across Pennsylvania. DLI anticipates the regulations will be finalized by the end of the year and will become effective 90 days later.

The Governor's Center for Local Government Services is setting up the Uniform Codes Academy. The academy will provide code training and certification testing at multiple sites throughout the Commonwealth. For more information contact Mitch Hoffman at (888) 223-6837.

Calendar of Events

Date	Meeting/Course/Workshop	Location	Contact Information
July 24	CTC Meeting	Hampton Inn, Mechanicsburg, PA	PHRC-(814) 865-2341
August 1 - 2	Comprehensive Training for Career and Technical Instructors in the Construction Field	Lehigh Career and Technical Training Institute	PHRC-(814) 865-2341
August 3 & 10	Comprehensive IRC Program	BA of Central PA	Judy Mitchell (814) 231-8813
August 5 - 6	Comprehensive Training for Career and Technical Instructors in the Construction Field	Cumberland-Perry CTC	Carol (717) 697-0354
August 8 - 9	Comprehensive Training for Career and Technical Instructors in the Construction Field	Eastern Westmoreland CTC	Susie May (724) 539-1907
August 14	The Accessibility Requirements of the International Building Code (IBC)	Bryce Jordan Center, University Park, PA	Greg Mussi (814) 231-3056
August 28 - 29	Comprehensive IRC Program	HBA of the Alleghenies	Mike Murray (814) 242-3812
September 18 - 19	MHRC-Fundamentals of On-Site Completion	Holiday Inn - King of Prussia, PA	PCT-(570) 327-4768
September 23 - 24	Comprehensive IRC Program	Carbon Builders Association	Debbie Kleckner (610) 379-1099
October 3	PHRC Fall Advisory Council Meeting	Harrisburg, PA	PHRC-(814) 865-2341
October 8 & 15	Comprehensive IRC Program	HBA of Bucks/Montgomery County	Donna Servis (215) 657-1300
October 16	CTC Meeting	Hampton Inn, Mechanicsburg, PA	PHRC-(814) 865-2341
October 23	BOCA/CABO Transition Program	BIA of Lancaster County	Tess (717) 569-2674
October 23 - 24	MHTI-Course (MHI 100-01)	Penn College, Williamsport, PA	PCT-(570) 327-4768
October 24	International Energy Efficiency Code-IEEC	Blair County Builders Association	Bob Buddenbohn (717) 573-2694
October 29 - 30	Comprehensive IRC Program	Lackawanna HBA	Dottie Gentile (570) 341-7496
October 29 - 30	MHRC-Fundamentals of On-Site Completion	Penn State Conference Center - Altoona, PA	PCT-(570) 327-4768
November 12 - 13	MHTI-Course (MHI 100-02)	Penn College, Williamsport, PA	PCT-(570) 327-4768
November 13 - 14	MHRC-Fundamentals of On-Site Completion	Shadowbrook Inn - Tunkhannock, PA	PCT-(570) 327-4768
December 10 - 11	MHTI-Course (MHI 100-03)	Penn College, Williamsport, PA	PCT-(570) 327-4768
December 10 - 11	Comprehensive IRC Program	Lawrence County Builders Association	Amy Kunselman (724) 658-4432
December 10 - 11	Comprehensive IRC Program	Blair County Builders Association	Bob Buddenbohn (717) 573-2694
December 11 - 12	MHRC-Fundamentals of On-Site Completion	Holiday Inn - Beaver Falls, PA	PCT-(570) 327-4768

Schedule for 2003

January 14 - 15	Comprehensive IRC Program	Lehigh Valley Builders Association	Rebecca (610) 432-4101
January 14 - 15	MHTI-Course (MHI 100-01)	Penn College, Williamsport, PA	PCT-(570) 327-4768
February 5 - 6	MHTI-Course (MHI 100-02)	Penn College, Williamsport, PA	PCT-(570) 327-4768
March 19 - 20	MHTI-Course (MHI 100-03)	Penn College, Williamsport, PA	PCT-(570) 327-4768
April 8 - 9	MHTI-Course (MHI 100-04)	Penn College, Williamsport, PA	PCT-(570) 327-4768

ACRONYMS:

CTC—Code Training Consortium
 MHRC—Manufactured Housing Resource Center
 MHTI—Modular Housing Training Institute

PCT—Pennsylvania College of Technology
 PHRC—Pennsylvania Housing Research Center

Training

New Energy Code Training

The PHRC has rolled out the new energy code training program intended for all building contractors, design professionals and code officials. The program offers a four-hour session for all audiences covering the general code requirements and the various compliance paths. This program goes beyond the basics of the code. It discusses how to meet the new code requirements and provides a tie between energy requirements and life-health-safety requirements in the IRC.

The program also offers an optional two-hour session on how to administer and enforce the energy code provisions. This is especially important since most municipalities that currently enforce a building code do not enforce the energy requirements. This portion of the program provides an overview of plan reviews and how to pick up many of the energy. While this part of the program is targeted at building code officials, anyone can attend.

The development of this program was funded in part by the US Department of Energy, the PA Department of Community and Economic Development, and the Pennsylvania Builders Association. To schedule a program in your area, please call Tracy DeSoto at (814) 865-2341.

Building Code Training Website

The PA Code Training Consortium's (CTC) website (www.engr.psu.edu/ctc) provides a database of all building code related training available in and around Pennsylvania. It allows anyone to perform a quick search on building code training by region of the state or by target audience.

Accessibility Training Scheduled for the Fall

The PHRC has partnered with the Pennsylvania Council on Independent Living and with the Eastern Paralyzed Veterans Association, Lift and Independence for Today (LIFT) and Centre Region Code Administration to present a seminar on the Accessibility Requirements of the International Building Code (IBC). The IBC is soon to be adopted in Pennsylvania. The course is to be held at the Bryce Jordan Center on the Penn State campus on August 14th.

The session will include an insight to Chapters 10 (Means of Egress), 11 (accessibility) and 34 (Existing Buildings) of the IBC, the accessibility referenced standard ICC/ANSI A117.1 1998, as well as the proposed revision of the American with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines and its integration with the IBC.

LIFT will also sponsor a separate training event oriented toward consumers and advocates. This event will explain how the new code legislation affects accessibility in Pennsylvania and will give suggestions for advocacy efforts to insure enforcement of the code. For additional information or to register for the program, please contact Greg Mussi, Director, Centre Region Code Administration.

Building Code Training

The demand for building code training remains high. The PHRC continues to offer training programs on the 2000 International Residential Code (IRC). So far the PHRC has offered 58 programs across Pennsylvania to over 2,340 builders, contractors, design professionals and building code officials. For a list of the 17+ programs already scheduled at the time this newsletter went to print, please see the calendar included in this newsletter.

Comments from program participants have included these:

What the builders said...

"I found it very beneficial for preparation of the upcoming requirements."

David Clark, Wilkinson Builders

"Every builder and remodeler will absolutely benefit from the information given at this training course."

Joe Mingioni, Mingioni Construction

Workshop

Moisture Control Workshop

The PHRC will be sponsoring a one-day workshop on “Avoiding Moisture-Related Problems in Residential Buildings” in the Harrisburg and Pittsburgh areas sometime in October 2002.

The objective of this workshop is to provide systematic and comprehensive coverage of the control of moisture and the avoidance of moisture-related problems in building enclosures. While largely directed at residential buildings (*detached houses and low-rise housing*), the principles covered apply to all building enclosures on all buildings. The program is directed at both the home-building industry and the professional design community.

This workshop will focus on the avoidance of moisture-related problems as opposed to dealing at length with the consequences. By understanding the building science fundamentals; the interdependence of heat, air and moisture control; the sources of moisture; the means for moisture movement and the thresholds for performance, moisture problems can be avoided. Equally important, one needs to be able to recognize a bad design and to be able to diagnose an existing situation.

This workshop will address the whole building enclosure, namely, roofing systems, wall systems above and below grade, basements and crawlspaces (*both vented and not vented*). The management of wind-driven rain and condensation and the provision of drainage, convective drying, air-pressure moderation across the screen and mold avoidance are examples of specific topics that will be dealt with.

Time will be devoted to discussing the future statewide building code and any moisture-related provisions in both the IRC 2000 and the new PA-Alternative Energy Code that was developed by the PHRC.

The exact dates and locations for this workshop have still to be confirmed. If you are interested in attending this workshop and would like to receive a brochure, please call Tracy DeSoto at the PHRC at (814) 865-2341.

Research

Climate Chamber

The PHRC is currently engaged in a comprehensive program of research on the performance of wall systems. Of particular interest is the performance of the exterior sheathing membrane, the cavity behind the cladding (or rainscreen) and the contribution of convective ventilation to drying. This work is funded by ASHRAE, the NSF and the PHRC.

The photograph below shows our new climate chamber and three research assistants, Chris Schumacher, Xing Shi and Joseph Piñon, and Bill Splain, our technician. This chamber can simulate indoor and both winter and summer outdoor conditions.



PSU Climate Chamber in BeTL (the Building Enclosure Testing Laboratory) at CATO PARK

We're on the Web
www.engr.psu.edu/phrc/

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Membership

A portion of the financial support for the PHRC is obtained from membership fees. Financial and other forms of support for the PHRC are very important. Industry-based funding, individual or corporate or association, is critical for our continued operation. We warmly welcome the new members of the PHRC. We thank new and existing members for their support of the PHRC and its efforts to serve the home building industry in PA.

New Members

Paul Albert of Larson Design Group, Inc.
BA of Northwestern PA
Shraga Berenfeld of Shraga Berenfeld Architect
Lester Brehm of L. Eric Brehm Contracting
Darwin Burtner of Western PA Geothermal Heating and Cooling, Inc.
Paul Campbell of Insurance Restoration Service
Perry Cisney of Perry L. Cisney, Inc.
Steven Deeming of Steven H. Deeming Architect
Howard Ermin of Center for Independent Living of South Central PA
Joel Farkas of Farkas Associates

Bob Flowers of Pittsburgh Cultural Trust
Brennan Glantz of Engineering Projects Inc.
David Griffiths of Pulte Home Corporation
Erik Harless of Hanson Design Group Ltd.
HBA of the Alleghenies
Reed Hoffman of Reed E. Hoffman, RA, PC
Joe Hughes of Professional Training Associates
James Karnes of Insealtite Insulation Company
Mandas Kavadias of Concord Township
Paul Kearney of Kearney Inspections, Inc.
Jeffrey Kline of Jeffrey Wyant Kline Architect
Bill Kulbacki of Gardian Inspection Services
Steve Lauriello of Spectrum Properties

Angela Miller of Miller Construction
Myron Nypaver of City of Uniontown
Pennsylvania Association of Code Officials
Steven Schoch of Kitchen & Associates
Drew Sieracki of Reshetar Group, Inc.
Richard Slike of Showcase Mobile Home, Inc.
Gilvert Smail of Madison Engineering
Robert Smith of Borough of Fox Chapel
John Stahl of Preferred Solutions, Inc.
Richard Stratton
Tim Ward of Hanson Design Group, Ltd.
Jack Willenbrock of JHW C/M Consultant

Current Members

Blair County Builders Association
Benjamin Obdyke Incorporated
Brian Campbell of Cedar Knoll Associates
CertainTeed Corporation
Comfort Home Corporation
Dow Chemical Company
DuPont Nonwovens
Paul Finley of Nolen Companies, Inc.
Franklin County Builders Association
Glunt Building Company, Inc.
Greater Dubois Builders

HBA of Chester and Delaware Counties
HBA of Metro Harrisburg
John Holahan, Liberty Homes Custom Builders
William Kurtz of Lebanon County Planning Department
Lackawanna Home Builders Association
Lebanon County Builders Association
Lehigh Valley Builders Association
PA Concrete Masonry Association
PA DCED
PA Manufactured Housing Association

Timothy Palaski of Middle Department Inspection Agency
Penn State University
Pennsylvania Builders Association
Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency
Pocono Builders Association
Harry Raymond of Ray-core, Inc.
Ryland Group, Inc.
S&A Custom Built Homes, Inc.
Weyerhaeuser
York County Builders Association