

**Building EQ Committee Web Meeting
March 22, 2021 Web Meeting
Meeting Minutes**

Attendance

Participants: John Constantinide, Rob Risley, Chris Balbach, Charles Eley, Michael Deru, Daniel Redmond, Mahroo Eftekhari, Anoop Peediyakkan, Trent Hunt, Bruce Hunn, Doug Cochrane, Hugh Crowther, Bill Dean, Lilas Pratt

Principal Motions¹

Motion #1: Dan Redmond moved, and Charles Eley seconded that the January 18, 2021 meeting minutes be approved as presented.

Vote: Motion passed by unanimous voice vote, 6-0-0, CNV.

Motion #2b: BDSC moved that Building EQ approve expanding the credentialed user criteria to align with the Standard 211 qualified energy auditor definition item a to include DOE recognized programs for Building Energy Auditor (CEA) and Energy Manager (CEM, EMP).

Vote: Motion passed by unanimous voice vote, 7-0-0, CV.

Motion #3: BDSC moved that that the paragraph from the Energy Genius award on the requirement for an entry fee be removed from the award rules.

Vote: Motion passed unanimous voice vote, 8-0-0, CV.

Motion #4: BDSC recommends that the products/reports in Portal be set up with a member discount on the pricing.

Vote: Motion passed unanimous voice vote, 8-0-0, CV.

Motion #5: BDSC recommends that the ASHRAE member discount for Portal products be 20%.

Vote: Motion passed unanimous voice vote, 8-0-0, CV.

New and Open Action Items

March 22, 2021 Building EQ Web Meeting

- **AI 1:** Lilas Pratt to send an email to Alice Yates to request a meeting between Building EQ committee leadership (John Constantinide, Rob Risley, Chris Balbach, Trent Hunt, Bill Dean) and a contact(s) from the NYSERDA FlexTech program.

February 11, 2021 Technical Development Subcommittee Web Meeting

- **AI 1:** Lilas Pratt to send out a Doodle Poll for a meeting on Data Centers **On-going**

February 9, 2021 Business Development Subcommittee Web Meeting

¹ All votes are recorded as yes-no-abstain.

- **AI 1:** Lilas Pratt to send draft talking points on value propositions to the committee for review.

January 18, 2021 Building EQ Winter Meeting

- **AI 2:** Lilas Pratt to ask if the PRM Methodology can be executed with the ASHRAE HQ model as it stands right now. **On-going**
- **AI 4:** Lilas Pratt to ask Mark Owen and Vanita Gupta about adding a link to the Building EQ Portal into the Technology Portal.
- **AI 5:** Lilas Pratt to set up a meeting with ASHRAE IT and Stephen Roth regarding ASHRAE's single log-in (i.e., synchronized or unified log-in system) for Building EQ. (Include Chris Balbach, Charles Eley, John Constantinide, Rob Risley, Trent Hunt.)
- **AI 6:** Rob Risley to research CEC reporting requirements to see how that might align with Building EQ.

November 12, 2020 Technical Development Subcommittee Web Meeting

- **AI 3:** Technical Development SubC to determine what system level KPI information would be useful to Portal users and whether or not the database information is robust enough to be used to generate targets for those KPIs. **On-going**

September 14, 2020 Building EQ Web Meeting

- **AI 3:** Trent Hunt and Lilas Pratt to put together an email regarding chapter presentations to send out to chapter program chairs and RVCs. **On-going**

February 2, 2020 Business Development Subcommittee Orlando Winter Meeting

- **AI 2:** Lilas Pratt to mine some data from the list of universities downloading course material and provide to the committee for follow-up by the committee. **On-hold**

January 13, 2019 Atlanta Winter Meeting

- **AI 1:** Lilas Pratt to contact Montana University regarding ASHRAE use of their one hour course. **On-hold**

January 12, 2019 Business Development Subcommittee Meeting

- **AI 3:** Lilas Pratt to develop French Portal examples (screens/reports/etc.) for use on sales calls to Hydro Quebec. **On-hold**

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order – **Meeting convened at 2:01pm EDT.** Quorum was established.
2. Report from the Chair (John Constantinide)
 - John Constantinide shared that a government organization has agreed to use Building EQ for ASHRAE Level 1 audits (as per Standard 211) to comply with the Energy Independence and Security Act (EISA) for roughly 1 million square feet starting in summer 2021 with reporting to Congress in Fall-Winter 2021. These projects are expected to include the purchase of reports from the Portal.

3. Report from the Coordinating Officer

- Bill Dean noted that two things are going on at the BOD level as follows.
- The first involves Society Transformation Ad hoc which is what the BOD will be focused on in their next meetings. Currently, BEQ reports to the BOD. The proposals being looked at would have BEQ reporting to one of the Councils.
- The budget is also being developed over the next month or so by Finance Committee to meet the 60 day requirement prior to the annual meeting. Current proposals show BEQ's budget returning back to where it was prior to the 20-21 Society lean assessment budget reductions.

4. Report from Staff (Lilas Pratt)

- Lilas Pratt reported that the As Designed Rating of the ASHRAE HQ Building is still on hold as the committee tries to determine how to proceed. The quote to adjust the building model so that it meets the As Designed requirements was \$7k to \$10k. This needs to be brought to ExCom. In the meantime, the committee is trying to ascertain if the current model could be used to follow the PRM methodology.
- The Energy Genius Award was approved during the Virtual Winter meeting by Honors & Awards Committee, Members Council, and the BOD. ([Attachment A](#))
- An email blast was sent out to all Portal Users in early March to announce the Standard 211 interpretation on remote site visits.
- An email blast on the Portal User Survey will go out in early April. Responses will be requested for return by mid-April.

5. Life to Date Portal Statistics as of March 2, 2021

- Users: 1340 (*1141 at beginning of SY*)
- Projects: 898 (*736 at beginning of SY*)
- Submitted/Approved projects: 51 (*51 at beginning of SY*)
- Reports purchased: 7 (\$1150) (*7 at beginning of SY*)
- Paid credentials: 54 (35 at \$15 + 19 at \$25 = \$1000) (*46 at beginning of SY*)

6. Approval of minutes

- January 18, 2021 web meeting
(File: [bEQCommittee_18Jan2021__WM_MtgMinutes_Draft.pdf](#))

Motion #1: Dan Redmond moved, and Charles Eley seconded that the January 18, 2021 meeting minutes be approved as presented.

Vote: Motion passed by unanimous voice vote, 6-0-0, CNV.

7. Review of [Action Items](#)

8. Business Development Subcommittee Report (BDSC)

- a. Qualified Assessor Criteria for Portal ([Attachment B](#))
 - Trent Hunt reports that the BDSC discussed expanding the list of credential users to align with the qualified energy auditor definition in Standard 211. This

would add Department of Energy Recognized Programs for Building Energy Auditor and Energy Manager which currently include CEA, CEM, and EMP.

- The motion to recommend this change was approved by BDSC 3-0-0, CNV.
- There should be no fiscal impact as the Portal had previously been updated to allow for additional credential user certifications.

Motion #2: BDSC moved that Building EQ approve expanding the credentialed user criteria to align with the Standard 211 qualified energy auditor definition to include DOE recognized programs for Building Energy Auditor (CEA) and Energy Manager (CEM, EMP).

Discussion:

- A licensed architect credential was not included in this discussion as that credential is not currently listed in Standard 211.
- Questions were raised as to whether or not this applied to only section a of the Standard 211 definition or also to sections b and c.
- It was noted that sections b and c would be difficult to implement in the portal as they are specific to and vary by individual jurisdictions.

Motion #2a: Dan Redmond moved and Mahroo Eftekhari seconded that the motion be amended to include the clarification that only Item a in the definition is to be added to the Portal.

Vote: Motion passed unanimous voice vote, 6-0-0, CNV.

Motion #2b: BDSC moved that Building EQ approve expanding the credentialed user criteria to align with the Standard 211 qualified energy auditor definition item a to include DOE recognized programs for Building Energy Auditor (CEA) and Energy Manager (CEM, EMP).

Vote: Motion passed by unanimous voice vote, 7-0-0, CV.

b. Energy Genius Award Entry Fee

- The entry fee requirement for this award was discussed during the BDSC meeting and it was noted that there are no other ASHRAE awards that require entry fees.
- While one motivation behind the creation of the award was to sell more reports, it was noted that the first step in getting people to purchase reports is to get them to submit projects.
- Because this is a brand new award that has not yet been implemented, there is no fiscal impact.
- The motion to recommend this change was approved by BDSC 3-0-0, CNV.

Motion #3: BDSC moved that that the paragraph from the Energy Genius award on the requirement for an entry fee be removed from the award rules.

Vote: Motion passed unanimous voice vote, 8-0-0, CV.

c. Member/Non-member Pricing for Portal Reports

- Currently pricing is the same on all reports for both members and non-members. There is a difference on the one time registration fee but not the reports.
- Adding member pricing would encourage members to purchase report.

- While current member pricing rates vary, a roughly 20% member discount appears to be typical.
- The fiscal impact is somewhat hard to determine because while this would bring in less revenue per report, it would likely generate increased report scales. As a result, the impact is expected to be net positive.
- The motion to recommend this change was approved by BDSC 3-0-0, CNV

Motion #4: BDSC recommends that the products/reports in Portal be set up with a member discount on the pricing.

Vote: Motion passed unanimous voice vote, 8-0-0, CV.

Motion #5: BDSC recommends that the ASHRAE member discount for Portal products be 20%.

Vote: Motion passed unanimous voice vote, 8-0-0, CV.

- d. Society MOU Priorities – Discussion deferred
- e. Portal Licensing Value Proposition – Discussion deferred
- f. Case Studies – Discussion deferred

9. Technical Development Subcommittee (TDSC) Report

a. System Level KPIs

- Chris Balbach reported that the committee is working at a high level to determine how system level KPIs would fit in with Building EQ. Two meetings have been held with LBNL and DOE on the topic.
- Chris Balbach also reached out to Jim Kelsey to see if Standard 211 would be interested in reconstituting the committee to explore how system level KPIs might be integrated into the standard.

b. Digital Twins

- Mahroo Eftekhari has been added as a member to MTG.BIM and will spearhead the committee's work on Digital Twins and coordination with the MTG.
- A meeting with the MTG.BIM was held on March 5. The MTG expressed interest in expanding their scope to include digital twins.

c. RP-1836 *Developing a Standardized Categorization System for EEMs*

- Amanda Webb (PI) spoke at the last TDSC meeting and provided an update on the progress of the project. The subcommittee will continue to monitor the progress of this research project.

d. CarmelSoft SBIR Phase I Project – BuildingSync

- TDSC is following the work by CarmelSoft on their SBIR project.
- The thrust of the project is allowing users to create projects and get a score through the Carmelsoft Schema Server being developed.
- Essentially, the project is creating a door into the Portal and the TDSC is learning how that door is being accessed and documented so as to know how to utilize it moving forward.

e. Adding Data Centers to Portal

- Working group lead by Michael Deru is trying to schedule a meeting to determine how and where to acquire the necessary data to properly characterize data centers in the Portal.

- f. 1771-RP *Energy Modeling of Typical Commercial Buildings in Support of ASHRAE Building Energy Quotient Energy Rating Program*
- g. PRM Methodology – Integration with Standard 90.1 PRM
 - The work of 1771-RP and the PRM methodology are both related to the As Designed rating and assessment. The committee continues to monitor both efforts.

10. Other Business (John Constantinide)

- a. NYSERDA Flexible Technical Assistance Program (FlexTech)
 - John Constantinide explained that FlexTech is a cost sharing grant program for building owners to have energy audits of their building paid for. A level 1 Energy Audit is required as part of the application for cost sharing.
 - If approved, the FlexTech program helps pay for the project if savings are identified. The scope of activities includes energy efficiencies, long-term energy plans, as well as investigation of advanced technology, deep energy savings distributed energy resources.
 - It was noted that the work required to get a project approved for the cost sharing is fairly involved and time consuming.
 - BDSC had discussed whether this program could be leveraged with NYSERDA to help generate more reports from the Portal.
 - The hook would be to get language about Standard 211 Level 1 audits included in the FlexTech requirements. The committee could then do targeted outreach to the FlexTech Consultants to advertise that Building EQ is one way to demonstrate compliance with that requirement.
 - It would be helpful to know what the compliance forms look like and how Building EQ's information compares. A gap analysis should be undertaken between the NYSERDA Level1+ template and the BEQ Narrative Audit report.
 - It is also important to determine where the majority of the FlexTech activity is focused. If it is not focused on energy efficiency assessment, then this initiative may not be worth pursuing.
 - The first ask would be to have the NYSERDA FlexTech contact address the committee (or BDSC) to get more information on the program. The committee needs to reach out to Alice Yates to initiate this contact.
 - Relevant Website links:
 - <https://www.nyserderda.ny.gov/All-Programs/Programs/FlexTech-Program>
 - <https://www.nyserderda.ny.gov/Contractors/Find-a-Contractor/FlexTech-Consultants>
 - <https://www.nyserderda.ny.gov/All-Programs/Programs/FlexTech-Program/FlexTech-Documents-and-Resources>
 - <https://portal.nyserderda.ny.gov/servlet/servlet.FileDownload?file=00Pt000000SKHT1EAP>
- b. Building EQ Tech Hour
 - Doug Cochrane reported that a meeting with the production team is expected in mid-April. A doodle poll for that meeting is out how.

- The Tech Hour oversight committee is reviewing the Building EQ presentation and will be providing comments back to Doug Cochrane and Lilas Pratt.
- They are looking to complete the Building EQ presentation sometime in May.
- The Commissioning Tech Hour will be rolled out first and Building EQ will follow.

11. Upcoming Meetings

- BEQ Business Development SubC, April 6, 2021, 11:00am-12:00pm
- BEQ Technical Dev (Method) SubC, April 8, 2021, 11:00am-12:00pm
- Virtual Annual Meeting Schedule:
 - BDSC – June 8, 2021, 11:00am-12:30pm
 - TDSC – June 10, 2021, 11:00am-12:30pm
 - Building EQ – June 14, 2021, 11:00am-1:00pm

12. Adjourn – **Meeting adjourned at 3:24pm EDT**

Attachment A – Approval of Energy Genius Award

From: Masterson, Rhiannon <RMasterson@ashrae.org>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 3:49 PM
To: Pratt, Lilas
Subject: RE: Building EQ Award proposal

The BOD has approved the new BEQ award! Please feel free to promote the award and solicit nominations according to your timeline.

As a pass-through award, you will send your recommended award recipient to H&A prior to each Winter Conference. Both H&A and Members Council will review, and you can present the award any time after the Winter Conference each year. I will send an email to you prior to each Winter Conference with a recommendation form that BEQ will need to complete with your recommended recipient.

From: Masterson, Rhiannon
Sent: Thursday, March 4, 2021 11:08 AM
To: Pratt, Lilas
Subject: RE: Building EQ Award proposal

The Building EQ award proposal was approved by H&A and by Members Council during the 2021 Winter Conference, but it still needs to be reviewed and approved by the BOD, which may not take place until the 2021 Annual Conference. I'll let you know once a final decision has been made.

For reference, below is the motion that was approved by Members Council. Please note that the award would be presented during a BEQ meeting, as opposed to the Plenary.

Motion 2: The Honors and Awards Committee recommends to Members Council that the Rules of the Board section 2.411.003.4 be edited as follows:

S. The Energy Genius Award is established to recognize excellence in the assessment of building energy performance.

Background: This award recommendation from the Building EQ Committee would be assigned to Category C: Personal Awards for Specific Society Activities. The vehicle for this award to assess building energy performance is through the use of the ASHRAE Building EQ Portal program and Building EQ assessment process through one of the following ways:

1. Completion of an ASHRAE Standard 211-compliant Level 1 Energy Audit with the assistance of ASHRAE Building EQ and a submission of an ASHRAE Building EQ In Operation project for an operational rating;
2. Completion and submission of an ASHRAE Building EQ As Designed project for an asset rating.

This pass-through award would be presented during a Spring ASHRAE Building EQ Committee Virtual Meeting.

Vote: 10-0-0 CNV

Fiscal Impact: Cost of one plaque, approximately \$50

Attachment B – Qualified Energy Auditor Definitions

STANDARD 211 DEFINITION – QUALIFIED ENERGY AUDITOR

An energy solutions professional who assesses building systems and site conditions; analyzes and evaluates equipment and energy use; and recommends strategies to optimize building resource use. Experience must include completion of five commercial (nonresidential) building energy audits within the past three years or a cumulative completion of ten or more commercial building energy audits.

The auditor must be one of the following:

- a. A person who holds a certification from a credentialing program approved by the U.S. Department of Energy Better Buildings Workforce Guidelines for Building Energy Auditors or Energy Managers
 - b. A licensed professional engineer or a licensed contractor specifically approved by the AHJ to conduct energy audits
 - c. A person approved as qualified by the authority having jurisdiction (AHJ)
-

DOE RECOGNITION THIRD-PARTY ACCREDITATION

The Department of Energy recognizes certification programs that are aligned with the Better Buildings Workforce Guidelines and which have received qualified accreditation by the American National Standards Institute, International Accreditation Service, or other qualified accreditation bodies who are in compliance with ISO/IEC 17024:2012. Once programs have received accreditation, they can submit their request for recognition through an online form.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY RECOGNIZED PROGRAMS

BUILDING ENERGY AUDITOR

ASHRAE, BEAP

Certified Building Energy Assessment Professionals (BEAP) are individuals who assess building systems and site conditions, analyze and evaluate equipment and energy usage, and recommend strategies to optimize building resource utilization.

Association of Energy Engineers, CEA®

Certified Energy Auditors are individuals who evaluate and analyze how energy is being used in a facility, identify energy conservation opportunities and make recommendations where consumption can be reduced or optimized.

ENERGY MANAGER

Association of Energy Engineers, CEM®

Certified Energy Managers are individuals who optimize the energy performance of a facility, building or industrial plant. The CEM® is a systems integrator for electrical, mechanical, process and building infrastructure, analyzing the optimum solutions to reduce energy consumption in a cost effective approach.

Energy Management Association, EMP

Energy Management Professionals utilize energy efficiency and data driven system analysis to optimize performance in facilities. The EMP incorporates commissioning, energy management and testing, adjusting and balancing (TAB) procedures to ensure effective and sustainable results.