

Sustainable MEP Leaders

10 DECEMBER 2019 / 2:00 PM EST

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/248664490>

Attendees: Luke Leung, Chris Colasanti, Pete Jefferson, Patrick Murphy, Jeffrey Rios, Sarah Gudeman, Brian Turner, Shannon Bunsen

NEXT CALL: *Tuesday, January 14, 2 pm -3 pm Eastern Time*

Agenda

1. Letter follow-up
 - a. 12/19 call with Jenna Tatum, Director, Building Electrification Initiative
 - b. Finalize the content and signatories by XXX date (Jan 1?)
 - c. Outreach Plan:
 - i. MEP leaders send it out to their contacts
 - ii. Could also do a blog post on BG to refer people that way
 - d. How do manufacturers engage with the group after receiving the letter?
 - i. Open call w/ MEP group and manufacturers to answer questions etc. ?
 - ii. Follow up one month later and suggest in-person meetings with a core MEP group to discuss any current or proposed R&D efforts.
 - iii. Share the findings with the larger building green MEP team.
2. Please add whatever plug loads data or leads you have to the [google folder](#)

Action Items

1. BuildingGreen: Four weeks prior to Greenbuild webinar show & tell - to help people see which sessions they might attend, open to all Peer Networks.
 - a. Still would like an in-person event as well during that week, with food and drink!
2. BuildingGreen (RG): refer to Twitter post, Greenbuild happening week of elections, if you have concerns, you may want to consider reaching out to Greenbuild organizers. (who are the contacts, USGBC and Informa Exhibitions)
3. DONE BuildingGreen (RG): Set up a Google Folder for manufacturer meeting plans and notes
 - a. Generate a contact list of manufacturers
4. DONE BuildingGreen (RG and PM): create 'blogpost', share link which includes a link to draft letter and a link of where to upload logo to be a signatory (make clear that we're looking for engineering firms. Include: name, company, industry) due before Jan. 1st, 2020.

- a. Get language from NM's emails
- b. DONE BuildingGreen (RG and ER): Media Post for above
- 5. Suggestion: other conferences to have people go around with the Electrification letter
 - a. ASHRAE Winter Meeting
 - b. AHR Expo - Luke presenting
- 6. Luke to forward letter to DOE, NREL
- 7. Topics/focus on Jan. Call
 - a. Follow-up on the Electrification Letter
 - b. Follow-up on CO2 research and cognitive ability
 - c. MEP Embodied Carbon in buildings
 - d. Outreach to educators for better building science, etc.
 - e. Connecting design engineers with energy modelers?
- 8. For Reference: [2019 Summit Summary Report](#)

Current Notes

- 1. Timing of Greenbuild 2020
 - a. Week of election day - Tuesday is election day, attendance may be low
 - b. Dates may change - interest in moving but not sure it will actually happen.
 - i. The more people let them know it's difficult to attend, the more likely it is that they'll reschedule.
 - ii. Formal poll or collection of feedback?
 - iii. Unless networking and Show & Tell were moved to another date, travel would probably be affected - coming out later.
 - 1. Could do Show & Tell on Thursday evening instead, sounds like Greenbuild party isn't that big a draw.
 - 2. One of the nice things about the Show & Tell (one of the highlights of Greenbuild!) is that Greenbuild presenters can encourage interest in their presentation through Show & Tell beforehand.
 - a. Webinar Show&Tell in advance?
 - b. Might be helpful, at least for presentation sneak previews, people can sign up in advance.
 - c. How far ahead?
 - i. 4-6 weeks seems like too much, deadline for uploading presentation for conference in 2019 was October 1st (about 6 weeks), would have to be sometime after that so presenters are finished with presentations. No earlier than 6 weeks, decisions about which presentations to attend don't get made that early but before day before conference.
 - ii. 4 weeks range is good
 - iii. Helps people organize their Greenbuild plans - which sessions they want to attend

- iv. In-person get-together was really positive, wouldn't want to lose that
- c. Greenbuild 2019 debrief
 - i. Small group discussions at booth were helpful and interesting
 - ii. Event overall at Kendeda was great - awesome talking to folks there and people weren't worn out by multiple days at Greenbuild yet, good content, good energy. First time going, fantastic, looking forward to it again next year.
 - iii. Really nice to make connections with people in person.
 - iv. Different from past events, this year there was no alcohol or food at the Show & Tell, only at the reception beforehand, would have been nice to have at S&T itself. Also room setup was pretty formal, in the past it's been more freeform, some people missed that less formal, more loose atmosphere. Although group has gotten bigger, which makes just crowding into a space more difficult.
- 2. Letter follow-up
 - a. At Greenbuild - the letter got some exposure, was really helpful to show to people who were interested in learning about the network, feels like there's a lot of interest in the letter and a lot of groups doing similar work who want to connect and align efforts.
 - b. 12/19 call with Jenna Tatum, Director, Building Electrification Initiative
 - i. Interested in overlap between what we're doing, understanding what they're doing and vice versa. Not sure what will come from that. More interaction with them may be a separate endeavor.
 - c. Finalize the content and signatories by Jan 1
 - i. If BEI wants to coordinate with us, any thoughts on how much we want to hold this as a project of this network, or are we comfortable collaborating or even handing it off to another group and maybe moving into more of a support role?
 - 1. Should close the letter at a certain date, Jan 1 suggested, interested in setting up meetings with manufacturers once it's out there. R&D information, distribute it to the various member organizations so we can all benefit from it.
 - 2. Is there any solid advocacy we could do at the ASHRAE winter meeting & AHR in a couple months? Will be collection of all these manufacturers - follow-up, drive this point home, that's our exact audience.
 - a. AHR has an advisory committee, Luke will be presenting inside the Expo, 72,000 people last year, Luke will include the letter in his presentation.
 - b. If the letter is finalized, should send to ASHRAE and publish to the ASHRAE journal - Luke, could be helpful for BG to be

involved as well. Helpful with BG's architect base. BG will plan on sharing it.

3. Putting a close date on it good to keep moving it forward. Always more to add. Pretty impressive as it stands, would like to see it move to the next phase.
 - a. Lives on its own now.
4. Chris will be joining 12/19 call with Jenna Tatum
 - a. As far as meetings with manufacturers follow-up, comfortable collaborating with other organizations or have this group take the lead?
 - b. Chris plans on doing it anyway, could share the effort and share the information.
 - c. Use the forum or set up a shared google doc to share meeting plans and then notes for meetings with manufacturers.
5. Luke will forward to DOE, NREL, whoever feels like joining can help with the effort
 - a. Rocky Mountain Institute?
 - b. Lots of potential collaborators - lot of work being done on this
6. Don't need to coordinate sending too much, not a bad thing for manufacturers to get it from multiple engineers
 - a. Good to know which people to talk to though
 - b. Start generating that list now
 - c. Trying to get into publications is a great way to increase visibility. BG publishing it and the journal.

ii. 21 logos in the folder as of this morning, the ones on the draft letter plus 4 or 5 more from TetraTech companies.

1. Possible to get a template to share on LinkedIn or social media that drives them to a site to add their logo? Might have more widespread impact.
2. Needs to have language, link of where to upload logo to be a signatory
3. Similar to code initiative
4. So far the outreach has been word of mouth, want to make sure that signatories were large MEP companies, any concern about sharing widely on social media?
 - a. Should the signatories be part of this group, or broader?
 - i. Said before don't have to be members of the network but want them to be engineering
 1. Could always filter the logos that actually go on the letter.

- 2. Make sure it's clear in the call that goes out - looking for engineering firms that are interested in signing on. Name, company, industry, just to be clear about it
- b. ENR MEP Giants ranking could be a list to use to target firms to sign.
 - i. At some point, does it really matter if there are 25, 30, 35? A bunch of well-known firms have signed it and it's going to start the conversation,
 - 1. Benefit to the open call is taking away "I need to talk to my boss and my boss' boss" etc. If it's more passive, firms are coming to us because they want to sign it. Theoretically if someone needs permission, they do that before they go to fill it out.
 - 2. BG will put together a webpage with the letter and a link to add your logo.
 - 3. No harm in one last push before January 1 close date.
 - ii. Content of letter - consider it already closed or are we open to other minor edits?
 - 1. Pretty locked down because of holidays. Not much time to add anything.
 - 2. People have signed it already on the basis that they read it, not fair to make any significant changes at this point anyway.
- c. Outreach Plan:
 - i. MEP leaders send it out to their contacts
 - ii. Could also do a blog post on BG to refer people that way
- d. How do manufacturers engage with the group after receiving the letter?
 - i. Open call w/ MEP group and manufacturers to answer questions etc.?
 - ii. Follow up one month later and suggest in-person meetings with a core MEP group to discuss any current or proposed R&D efforts.
 - iii. Share the findings with the larger building green MEP team.
- 3. Please add whatever plug loads data or leads you have to the [google folder](#)
 - a. Nothing new to share, still looking for people to contribute data from other studies they've done or know about
 - b. Will come back to it in the new year after we get the letter out
- 4. Any other initiatives from the past? Standard 209 is still pushing forward, haven't heard any updates recently, was gathering final comments but no additional action recently.
 - a. Next step is opening up to wider Peer Networks, flurry of comments in the last day or two, ready to expand.
- 5. Next year's Summit dates are looking like June 9th and 10th in Denver hosted by Stantec

- a. Pete has access to conference center space in their Denver building, can put us in touch with someone at their Denver office to help with scheduling if needed

6. Is there a particular topic or focus area we want for our January call?

- a. Come back to plug load data? Follow-up on the letter? Any other initiatives to check in on?
- b. Meeting several months ago, wasn't there some follow-up on CO2 research and cognitive ability?
 - i. Yes, could summarize it on the next call
- c. Embodied Carbon of MEP equipment, no one even knows what's going on. Want to address that with this group here.
 - i. Kind of gotten off the hook on a lot of these issues for a lot of years. Things like mechanical and electrical systems have been excluded from a lot of the calculations.
 - 1. Is the MEP embodied carbon of a building so small it doesn't matter?
 - 2. Systems often deemed as not permanent compared to other components but probably not negligible.
 - 3. Could be worse because they get changed so often.
 - 4. Have seen a figure, maybe at a Greenbuild presentation
 - 5. Maybe Greg Norris at ILFI and Harvard has data, could try to get that from him.
- d. Topics/focus on Jan. Call
 - i. Follow-up on the Electrification Letter
 - ii. Follow-up on CO2 research and cognitive ability
 - iii. MEP Embodied Carbon in buildings
 - 1. Systems not permanent
 - 2. Too small to count data?
 - 3. Input/output work
 - iv. Outreach to educators for better building science, etc.
 - v. Connecting design engineers with energy modelers?
- e. Summary from July meeting - haven't talked about outreach to educators around need for better education of architectural engineers etc.
 - i. See if there's something specific we want to move ahead with
- f. Big topic from last Summit - connecting design engineers with energy modelers. Something we'll pick up at the next meeting if not before
 - i. Energy modeling is important but not predictive, factors are too variable. Design and production staff are separate from performance simulation staff. Need to understand each other, work together. Energy modeling gives engineers a voice in the early design but need a broader understanding. ([Summary Report from the Summit](#) has more details)

Pre-Call Notes

1. Could BG publish a well-researched article on plug loads?
 - a. Plug loads - practitioners' perspective, highlight relative state of confusion, electrical code vs designers vs real world - what are plug loads in our building?
2. BG to help coordinate Plug load webinar?? - also to raise visibility beyond MEP group.
3. Nadav to Mention Plug load project at Greenbuild/PN Show & Tell?
4. Kim Shinn - Post Standard 209 scope doc on MEP for a short time.
5. BG to post MEP 2020 Summit Save the Date when dates are finalized

MEP Peer Network Annual Membership

Peer Networks membership page

Previous Meetings

[August 13, 2019](#) Notes

[September 10, 2019](#) Notes

[October 8, 2019](#) Notes

[November 12, 2019](#) Notes