

ESD-15a. Training and Education for Built Environment Professionals

Policy Description

Florida's has more than 200,000 licensed built environment professionals, including building contractors, architects, engineers, interior designers, and others involved in the design and construction of Florida's residential and commercial buildings. All of these professionals must take continuing education units (CEUs) to maintain their licenses. In addition to required CEUs, built environment professionals have access to rater training associated with certification programs such as the Home Energy Rating System (HERS Rater), US GBC LEED Accredited Professional (LEED-AP), and the FGBC (Certifying Agent). More diverse outreach is available through Florida's universities and community colleges, as well as programming sponsored by professional associations, such as the Florida Home Builders Association (FHBA).

This policy option will encourage greater access to training and education for built environment professionals specifically enhancing their ability to effectively apply building science principles to reduce energy consumption. This policy will emphasize certification programs as tools in reducing CO₂ emissions and the overarching importance of measurable impacts. Example policy areas follow:

- Start programs to train builders and contractors on proper heating and air conditioning sizing and installation;
- Mandate that state Boards of Licensing for building professionals cover knowledge of the improved building codes and building energy performance requirements reflected in various policy options in licensing exams;
- Implement code training and technical assistance for builders and architects; and
- Florida green building certification program developed for building professionals involved in the design and construction of residential buildings, such as architects and designers of residential buildings and residential developers and general contractors. An example is the Certified Green Building Professionals (CGBP) program administered by Build It Green for California building professionals.

Policy Design

Goals: Not quantifiable.

Timing: Programs in place by the end of 2010.

Parties Involved: Licensed built environment professionals, such as contractors, architects, engineers, and interior designers; code enforcement agencies; community colleges; universities; Department of Education (DOE).

Other: TBD—[as approved by the TWG]