



Contents

- 1 Mountain Building Officials are back!
- 2 Reading Rescheck: A Primer
- 3 Significant Changes: Comparing Codes

INTERESTED IN HOSTING AN IN-PERSON TRAINING?

Our team of instructors and code experts are here to assist your community and local builders in complying with your locally adopted building and energy codes.

To discuss hosting an in-person training contact hope.medina@shumscoda.com for availability or possible training topics.

ISSUE SEVEN | JULY-AUGUST 2025

Mountain Building Officials Relaunches Regional Collaboration with August Kick-Off Event

After several years of limited activity, the Mountain Building Officials—a regional subchapter of the Colorado Chapter of the International Code Council (CCICC)—is launching a new era of collaboration, connection, and code leadership in Colorado’s high country. Representing communities from Clear Creek County westward to Carbondale, this group provides a critical forum for mountain jurisdictions to share strategies, elevate training opportunities, and work together on regional building code solutions tailored to the unique challenges of Colorado’s alpine environment.

The relaunch event, **scheduled for August 27th**, will serve as a springboard for future gatherings and organizational momentum. The gathering will bring together building officials from across the region to network, discuss regional priorities, and set the groundwork for recurring meetings and educational programming. Attendees can expect sessions focused on shared enforcement challenges, (continued on page 2)

innovations in energy code adoption, and opportunities for joint training initiatives.

Assisting with this renewed effort is Bonnie Muhigirwa, Chief Building Official of the City of Aspen. Bonnie is a recognized leader in energy code advancement and a longtime advocate for collaboration in code administration, Bonnie currently serves on the CCICC Board of Directors and as Vice President of ICC Region XI, which spans the Rocky Mountain and Upper Midwest states.



Her leadership has been instrumental in organizing this kick-off event and re-establishing the Mountain Building Officials as an active voice within Colorado's code development landscape.

Aspen, under Bonnie's leadership, continues to set the bar for progressive energy code adoption and sustainable building practices—serving as a model for other jurisdictions navigating the balance between mountain resilience, high performance, and practical enforcement.

Bonnie's commitment to regional knowledge-sharing and mentorship is already shaping the next chapter for code officials across the mountain corridor.

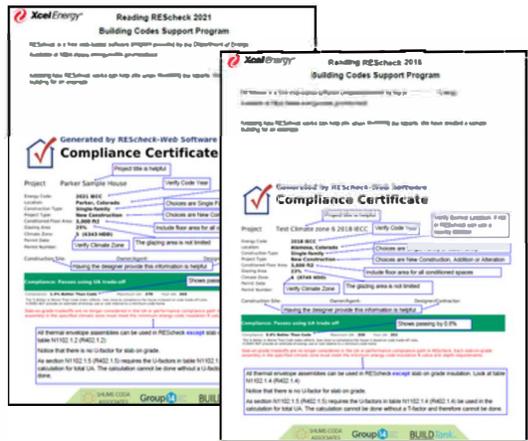
With new energy and leadership in place, the Mountain Building Officials are poised to become a vital resource once again. Whether you're a seasoned official or new to the field, this is your chance to connect, contribute, and help shape a stronger, more unified voice for Colorado's mountain communities. We look forward to the continued good work of the Mountain Building Officials and the incredible leaders that help make our mountain communities safe, healthy and energy efficient.

For assistance or questions with the MBO event, Bonnie can be contacted at bonnie.muhiwirwa@aspen.gov.



RESCHECK 101: A PRIMER

As building codes evolve to meet new energy performance goals, jurisdictions across the country face increasing pressure to verify compliance in ways that are both effective and practical. Among the tools available to help bridge the gap between code requirements and field enforcement, our **REScheck reading guides** have emerged as invaluable resources for building departments and inspectors.



What Is REScheck?

REScheck is a free software tool developed by the U.S. Department of Energy that helps demonstrate compliance with the residential provisions of the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC). It provides a simplified path for code compliance using a total UA trade-off method, which evaluates a home's overall envelope performance rather than requiring prescriptive compliance with each individual component.

Why Reading REScheck Guides Matter

While REScheck is widely used by designers, builders, and raters, the interpretation of these reports at the local level is not always straightforward. That's where REScheck reading guides come in. These documents walk plan reviewers, inspectors, and code officials through the key components of a REScheck submittal, clarifying:

- How to verify correct code year, location, and climate zone
- Which assemblies and insulation levels require special attention (e.g., walls without continuous insulation, under-insulated ceilings)
- How air sealing, slab insulation, and duct design are handled under prescriptive compliance paths
- Where trade-offs are permitted—and where they are not
- The importance of signatures, notes, and inspection checklists

A Tool for Training, Consistency, and Confidence

Reading REScheck guides are more than just technical documents—they're a tool for training new staff, clarifying enforcement protocols, and building confidence in energy code compliance across the construction and inspection community. By demystifying a complex but widely used tool, they help ensure that energy efficiency goals are met not only on paper but in practice. Find our guides at <https://tinyurl.com/EnergyCodeSupportCO>.

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO THE IECC

Colorado jurisdictions working within Climate Zones 4 through 7 will encounter significant shifts in residential energy efficiency standards as they transition from the 2018 IECC to the 2024 edition. The International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) has evolved over the past three cycles, introducing new measures that improve energy performance, flexibility, and enforcement.

2018 to 2021: Foundation for Modernization

The 2021 IECC introduced a roughly 9.4% increase in energy efficiency over the 2018 version, largely through tighter building envelope requirements and a restructured format. U-factors for windows and skylights were lowered in northern climate zones, air leakage and duct testing protocols were revised, and a new requirement for mechanical ventilation testing was added. Additionally, the 2021 IECC introduced **Section R408**, requiring builders to select **one of five additional efficiency measures**, ranging from enhanced envelope performance to more efficient HVAC and ventilation.

2021 to 2024: Prescriptive Tightening and Credit-Based Flexibility

The 2024 IECC continues this trajectory with substantial changes to both prescriptive and performance pathways. Notable updates include:

Category	2024 IECC Update	Impact / Purpose
Wall Insulation	Increased R-values with options like: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R-13 + R-10ci • R-0 + R-20ci (Zones 4–6) 	Improves thermal envelope performance
Floor Insulation	Raised to R-30 in Climate Zone 4	Reduces heat loss through floors
Air Leakage	Tighter blower door requirement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.5 ACH50 (was 3.0) for Zones 6–8 	Increases envelope integrity and energy efficiency
Electric Resistance Heating	Capped at 2 kW in Zones 4–8 unless paired with a heat pump system	Discourages inefficient heating systems
Mechanical System Design	Manual D now required for duct design, in addition to Manual J (loads) and S (equipment sizing)	Ensures properly sized and efficient ductwork
R408 Efficiency Credits	Must choose 10 credits (15 if >5,000 ft ²) from a menu of 50+ options (e.g., ducts inside, PV, air sealing)	Adds flexibility while raising baseline performance
Energy Rating Index (ERI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targets lowered (e.g., CZ5: from 61 → 54) • Now includes dual targets (with/without renewables) 	Supports grid-responsive buildings and long-term savings

LUNCH & LEARN Weekly



Join Andre, Tuesdays at noon MST for a weekly training and chat on some of your most request topics. September 2nd to October 7th from the comfort of your office chair.

TOPICS

 Tuesdays
Noon - 1pm MST



REGISTRATION

 Questions? Reach me at
andre.jaen@shumscoda.com

9/2	Current Legislation & Your Code Adoption
9/9	Metro Cohort Amendments Part 1: Policy & Strategy
9/16	Metro Cohort Amendments Part 2: Technical & Enforcement
9/23	Plan Review & Document Workflows
9/30	Inspection Resources by Compliance Path
10/7	Foam Insulation & Fire Safety



Calling all builders and inspectors in SLV!!!

Join us for free in person training at Alamosa County, August 19th

The day will feature two 4-hour sessions, come for one or both!!!

Location
8900-A Independence Way,
Alamosa, CO 81101



Email us at
hope.medina@shumscoda.com
or andre.jaen@shumscoda.com
for any questions

Register by
Clicking
Here

Or scan this QR Code



Manual J, S, and D for SLV 8am-noon

Check out this in depth look at how to use, make, read and build with an important residential standard.



The Complete Thermal Envelope 1pm to 5pm

Take a deep dive on air sealing, moisture management, insulation, and fenestration for your most common types of construction.

BEST PRACTICES SERIES COMMERCIAL FOCUSED



**Join your Xcel Program Team from the comfort of your office for this series.
Tuesdays and Wednesday in August from 8am to 9am.**



**Tuesdays and
Wednesdays in August**



8:00AM - 9:00AM



[REGISTER HERE](#)

Tuesday, August 12th

COMcheck - Thermal Envelope (Looking at the website and reports)

Wednesday, August 13th

COMcheck -Interior Lighting (Looking at the website and reports)

Tuesday, August 19th

COMcheck -Exterior Lighting (Looking at the website and reports)

Wednesday, August 20th

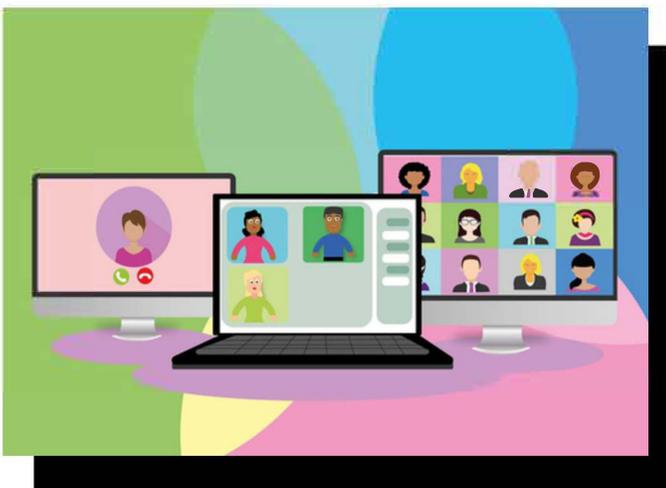
COMcheck - Mechanical (Looking at the website and reports)

Tuesday, August 26th

Commercial Load Calculations (Looking at what the reports are showing)

Wednesday, August 27th

Commercial Submittal Documents



Have questions?
Contact Andre or Hope
andre.jaen@shumscoda.com
hope.medina@shumscoda.com

Join your Xcel Program Team from the comfort of your office for this series.

Tuesdays and Wednesday in September and October from 8am to 9am.



TUESDAYS

BREAKING DOWN A MANUAL READING THE REPORT

Tuesday, September 30th

Looking at how a Manual J report provides the information, and the Program's technical documents.



WEDNESDAYS

TOP TEN ITEMS FOR MANUAL J TO BE CORRECT

Wednesday, October 1st

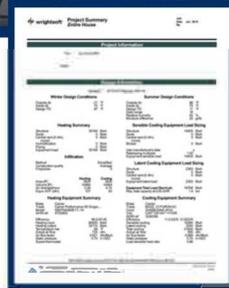
The top ten items potential error inputs in Manual J software that needs to be correct to support a good Manual J.



BREAKING DOWN A MANUAL S

Tuesday, October 7th

Looking at how the Manual J heating & cooling loads are used to determine the size of equipment.



BREAKING DOWN A MANUAL D READING THE REPORT

Wednesday, October 8th

What do all of the numbers on these reports mean, and is the duct design complete and correct?



READING A PERFORMANCE REPORT

Tuesday, October 14th

What does the code require to be placed on these reports, and where does one find them?



READING A RESCHECK

Wednesday, October 15th

Looking at the software and what it requires to produce a report, and how to review the report.





What can your Xcel Building Code Support Program do for you?

About Us



The Xcel program provides energy code support to communities in Xcel's service territory. It supports through education, training, outreach, adoption assistance and technical support. Our program is staffed by a team of experts that can help you with all parts of energy code adoption, implementation and enforcement.

Our Free Services

Code Adoption

Providing support including **drafting adoption documents, technical review and presenting** to decision makers.

Training

We provide regular webinars and online trainings. All training as AIA and ICC Preferred Provider credited. Have a training topic for your staff? You can **host a program training** on a desired topic to the benefit of your staff, local builders and neighboring jurisdictions.

Helpline

Have code questions? We help support the **Colorado Codes Helpline** where you can get expert answers to your questions.

Technical Assistance

Have questions about a particular code section or an interpretation? **Reach out** for to an expert!

Circuit Rider Visits

Schedule a visit with our circuit rider to **discuss your community needs**, upcoming adoption or the regional direction for your community.

email us at hope.medina@shumscoda.com or andre.jaen@shumscoda.com



Wednesday Webinar Series

Wednesdays, 12:00pm-1:00pm

- 8/20/25 Unusual Residential Construction and the Energy Code
- 9/17/25 Unusual Commercial Construction and the Energy Code
- 10/15/25 Fire Rated Assemblies and the Energy Code
- 11/19/25 Exterior Wall Assemblies
- 12/17/25 Heat Pumps, the Gift that Keeps on Giving!

If you have a special training request, code questions, or are interested in hosting an in-person training session. Please let us know.

MEET YOUR INSTRUCTORS



Andre Jaen
Shums Coda Associates



Anna McCullough
Group 14



Hope Medina
Shums Coda Associates



Robby Schwarz
BUILDTank



Joshua Harmon
Shums Coda Associates



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HOPE.MEDINA@SHUMSCODA.COM