

**From:** Randy Foster <randy@artisansgroup.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 27, 2019 6:51 PM  
**To:** DES SBCC <sbcc@des.wa.gov>  
**Subject:** Testimony on the adoption of the 2018 WSEC-Residential

Council Members,

I support each of the Proposed Residential Energy Code Amendments to the 2018 Code. Most importantly, I am writing to emphasize my support of two proposed amendments, listed below.

I am a Principal at the Artisans Group, a 20 year old firm that specialize in designing and building super-energy-efficient homes in western Washington. Artisans Group has been responsible for designing and building some 2 dozen high performance homes, the majority of which meet Passive House standards. We have employed 10-20 employee crafts people and project managers, and countless subcontractors. Our homes have been reviewed for compliance with energy code; in a variety of permitting jurisdictions including Island, King, Pierce, Thurston counties, and the Cities of Seattle, Olympia, and Port Townsend.

My comments are rooted in a long experience with teams, focused on the design and construction of actual homes, purchased by real people with true life budget limitations.

#### 19-WSEC-R36 (additions to the energy credits program)

I have reviewed the proposed Table 406-3 and find it to be well thought out. The changes resulting from this new program of energy code credits are consistent with the list of features that must go into new and remodeled residential structures, if the citizens of WA are to meet energy use reduction targets that have been approved by legislation and established by administrative policy.

Residential designers and builders are accustomed to meeting energy code requirements by selecting credits available within Table 406. It makes perfect sense to use this program of managed credits to drive future energy use reduction in the built environment. I believe that the building industry will successfully implement the changes that this amendment contains.

#### 19-WSEC-R32 (Passive House as an alternative compliance path)

Under the current code, we spend a good bit of time fitting the energy metrics of our Passive House projects into the WA State energy credit program, so that the permitting entity can see that the home will exceed WA energy code requirements. It will be very useful to our firm, our customers, and our permitting officials, if the code stated that a home performing at a Passive House level will be accepted as meeting the energy use targets establish in Washington State.

Our firm has been involved in projects that are certified as Built Green, or meet Green Building Standards, or that were rated under the LEED for Homes program. These programs are great. But it is questionable if homes rated under these programs are super-energy-efficient. Do the rated homes actually use substantially less energy than a typical 'code built' home?

Apply this same question to a certified Passive House, and there is no reason for doubt. Our firm's first Passive House was studied for 18 months by the WA State Energy Office. Predicted energy savings equal 75% of typical energy use. The study concluded that the *actual* energy savings were very close to predicted, within 2% of expectation. This is a typical finding in studies of Passive Houses worldwide. These savings match the experience of all of our Passive House buyers.

Thank you for taking time to read my thoughts. Please contact me if I may provide more information.

Sincerely,

Randy Foster



Randy Foster, Principal, CPHC

cel: [\(360\) 870-2526](tel:(360)870-2526)

[randy@artisansgroup.com](mailto:randy@artisansgroup.com)

[ArtisansGroup.com](http://ArtisansGroup.com)

The Artisans Group, Inc.

1508 4th Ave E Olympia