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# ICFA DIALOGUE

Summer 2010

**Pictured: REHAU MONTANA Ecosmart House**



## NEW MEMBER RESOURCES



A mutually beneficial agreement has been forged between the ICFA and QAI Laboratories. Exclusive to members of the ICFA, QAI Laboratories will perform evaluation of any existing data to new ASTM standards free of charge. QAI also offers a 10% discount on all other services for members of the ICFA. For more information go to [www.forms.org](http://www.forms.org) and look under "Member Benefits", or [www.qai.org](http://www.qai.org).

In addition to our already established LinkedIn page, the ICFA is now on Facebook and Twitter. Friend or follow us for regular ICFA updates, industry news, and posts from industry colleagues.

[www.linkedin.com](http://www.linkedin.com)  
[www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)  
[www.twitter.com](http://www.twitter.com)

## Graduates, students build ecosmart ICF house at MSU

Construction began in April on an energy efficient home at Montana State University in Bozeman, MT. The project is a collaboration between MSU graduates Bill Hoy, an architect in Washington, D.C., and Kitty Saylor, president and CEO of REHAU North America. REHAU is a German firm that deals with innovation and manufacturing of polymer-based products and systems. "We see this as a pilot project for many more to come," Kitty Saylor said, "We'd like to replicate the project with lessons learned."

The project, dubbed the REHAU MONTANA Ecosmart House, is intended to show how sustainable, passive heating systems function in a northern climate. It will feature redundant energy efficiency systems such as:

- Insulating concrete forms
- Ground-air heat exchange
- Vinyl door and window frames
- Solar thermal energy for hot water
- Geothermal ground loop heat exchange

The Ecosmart House was designed and is being built with the help of 20-30 students from MSU. Mechanical engineering students for example, have used computers to model air exchanges and the effectiveness of various building materials. Film students are also shooting a documentary of the construction of the house with a focus on the energy efficient techniques being used.

Officials will use the home as an ongoing, real-world learning and teaching tool for students and for those in the construction industry who are looking for ways to meet the latest certification standards. Data will be collected during the three-year project and evaluated to determine the best system for the climate. Findings will be posted to the Web as they become available.

For more information go to [www.montana.edu](http://www.montana.edu).



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## ICFA Contractor/Distributor Leadership Council

The ICFA has begun the process of organizing a committee to represent its contractor and distributor members. In mid-May, Executive Director Betsy Steiner conducted a teleconference with 10 representatives of ICFA member companies from the ICF contracting and distribution market. The meeting was the first step towards a new policy of expanded accessibility and member involvement with the ICFA. Many issues were discussed at the meeting, with a special focus on hearing the problems and difficulties that ICF contractors and distributors face every day, and what some of their ideas are about how to solve those problems. The function of the ICFA, and its previous performance in fulfilling that function, as related to contractor and distributor members, was also an important topic of discussion.

The participants presented many excellent ideas for ICFA resources and programs that would benefit not only the business of ICF contractors and distributors, but those involved in the ICF industry as a whole, such as:

- An expanded educational program to disseminate information about ICFs to the public
- ICFA certification for ICF installers
- An ICF Homeowners Feedback section on forms.org
- A comprehensive list of incentives (tax breaks, insurance discounts, etc.) for using ICFs
- Cost models comparing ICF buildings with traditional stick frame building over the lifetime of the structure
- An ICFA sponsored study comparing R-value of different ICF forms

Several of these ideas will soon be incorporated in to the ICFA's ongoing strategic planning. The primary topic of discussion was the formation of a committee for contractor and distributor members, the purpose of which will be to give these members a more prominent role in the operation of the ICFA, as well as a prominent voice in the ICF industry. The formation of the committee will be finalized during a teleconference this summer.

## 2010 UPCOMING EVENTS

### **1st International High Performance Buildings Conference**

July 12—15 2010

West Lafayette, IN

[www.engineering.purdue.edu/Herrick/Events](http://www.engineering.purdue.edu/Herrick/Events)

### **Green Building Focus Conference and EXPO**

August 24—26 2010

Birmingham, AL

[www.greenbuildingfocus.com](http://www.greenbuildingfocus.com)

### **21st Century Building Expo & Conference**

September 15—17, 2010

Charlotte, NC

[www.21buildingexpo.com](http://www.21buildingexpo.com)

### **East Coast Green: Meeting the Architecture 2030 Goals**

September 15—17, 2010

Atlantic City, NJ

[www.aia-nj.org/ECG](http://www.aia-nj.org/ECG)

### **Greenbuild 2010**

November 17—19, 2010

Chicago, IL

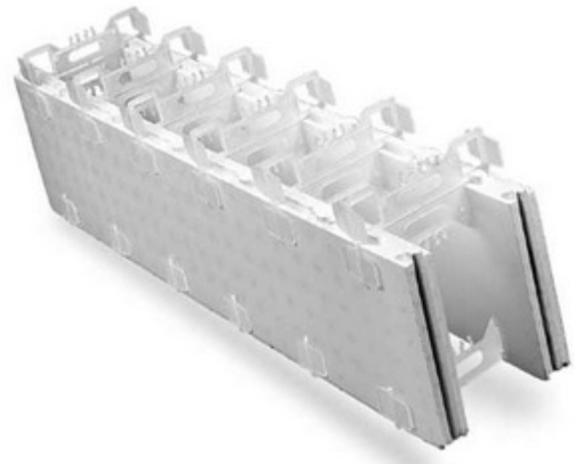
[www.greenbuildexpo.org](http://www.greenbuildexpo.org)

### **Green California Schools Summit**

December 8—10, 2010

Pasadena, CA

[www.green-technology.org/gcschools/index.html](http://www.green-technology.org/gcschools/index.html)



## TEST RESULTS REVIEWED

Recently discovered issues with the Forming Capacity for Effects of Consolidation test conducted by Intertek have rendered previous results of the test invalid. Reviews of the test concluded that the procedure for loading during the Effects of Consolidation section of the test was flawed. Discussions between the CCMC, Intertek, and the ICF Industry has resulted in a mutually agreed upon corrected procedure.

With the loading procedure revised, Intertek can now offer a retest of the ICF products that experienced this issue. Intertek estimates to complete all testing for the effected manufacturers should take less than 90 days time from May 1st, 2010, or an estimated August 1, 2010 completion time for re-conducting the test.

In an effort to further support the ICF industry, CCMC has agreed to waive the random sample selection required for products tested to CCMC MasterFormat or Technical Guide specifications, so long as the material received at Intertek can be verified to be representative of the material that was previously tested for Forming Capacity. To this end, Intertek will allow direct shipment without random sample selection to the test facility, but will be conducting verification tests to ensure the products received are representative of previously tested products.

The worst case test samples for approval of this testing program are the ICF with the widest web tie spacing, and maximum cavity size intended for CCMC compliance.

For manufacturers intending to follow this program to completion, please contact your Intertek Account Manager for further details.



**SAFE & SUSTAINABLE BY THE BOOK**

## ICC LAUNCHES GREEN CODE

In 2009, the International Code Council launched the development of a new *International Green Construction Code (IGCC)* initiative, with the subtitle "Safe and Sustainable: By the Book". This initiative is dedicated to the development of a model code focused on new and existing commercial buildings addressing green building design and performance.

The initial project to draft the IGCC Public Version 1.0 was a cooperative effort undertaken by the American Institute of Architects (AIA) and ASTM International. The presence of AIA assures the code will conform to their 2030 Carbon Neutrality goal, intended to produce buildings with zero carbon emissions in 20 years. ASTM International's presence ensures a strong scientific basis in the code.

The project will also utilize input from ICC members and the general public. Included as an optional jurisdictional compliance option is ANSI/ASHRAE/USGBC/IES Standard 189.1-2009 for the Design of High-Performance Green Buildings, Except Low-Rise Residential Buildings.

The Westin O'Hare in Rosemont, Illinois will be the host of the 2010 IGCC Public Comments Hearings taking place over the week of August 14<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>, which all may attend. If you have any questions about ASHRAE or ASTM, or would like additional information on the upcoming meetings, please contact us at 888-864-4232.

## IGCC Development Concepts

- Will use the "model" code approach
- Minimum and advanced levels of performance
- Will work as an overlay to the ICC Family of Codes
- Written in a mandatory language that provides new regulatory framework
- Will provide performance and prescriptive solutions
- Accounts for local conditions
- Reflect the AIA 2030 Challenge
- Work in tandem with leading Green rating system
- Designed with local, state, & federal law in mind

## TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENTS

### **ASTM E2634—08 Standard Specification for Flat Wall Insulating Concrete Form Systems**

This ASTM specification is intended to apply to ICF systems that will act as permanent formwork for cast-in-place reinforced concrete beams; lintels; interior and exterior, above and below grade bearing and non-bearing walls; foundation; and retaining walls. The specification is restricted to ICF systems with a resultant uniform monolithic concrete core.

This specification identifies test methods appropriate for establishing ICF system performance in their primary function as a stay in place concrete forming system. The use of ICF Systems covered by this specification shall be regulated by building codes that address fire performance, structural performance, or both. The fire performance of the material shall be addressed through standard fire test methods established by the appropriate governing documents. The structural performance must be addressed through design of concrete structures in accordance with the appropriate code requirements.

The ASTM Spec has been used as the basis for developing a Canadian ULC equivalent specification that will go to ULC ballot in late June 2010.

## BSC EXCELLENCE AWARDS

The Building Systems Council is now accepting entries for its **2011 Excellence in Marketing and Home Design** award program. The awards are open to any member of the Building Systems Councils and any NAHB builder using systems-built technology and construction techniques.

The BSC membership has made some changes to its Awards Program this year, most notably updates to the square footage requirements, which increased the number of awards and will allow more comparable homes to compete in each category. The BSC will heavily promote the awards and winners through full-length features in both print and on the Web. Winners will be announced during a special ceremony at SHOWCASE 2010 in November in New Orleans, LA.

BSC/LHC award winners also have the opportunity to receive even more publicity at the 2011 International Builders' Show. Award winners have the option to create display boards that will be featured on the BSC Awards wall which appears in a prominent public space at the 2011 Show.

To enter, go to [www.nahb.org/2011BSCAwards](http://www.nahb.org/2011BSCAwards).

## NEW MEMBERS OF THE ICFA

**Carlyn Capital, LLC**  
**North Carolina**

**Sierra Vista Lumber Co.**  
**Colorado**

**New Avenue Architects & Engineers**  
[www.new-avenue.net](http://www.new-avenue.net)  
**Ohio**

**Double A Construction**  
**New Mexico**

**Arizona ICF**  
**Arizona**

**Briegan Concrete Constructors**  
[www.brieganconcrete.com](http://www.brieganconcrete.com)  
**North Carolina**

**Goss Foundations, Inc.**  
**Florida**

**Tal-Co Limited**  
[www.tal-co.com](http://www.tal-co.com)  
**Ontario**

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