



## Engaging local government building departments in streamlining HVAC permitting

The Center for Sustainable Energy, with funding from the California Energy Commission and in partnership with The Energy Network, is asking local building departments to help identify solutions that improve residential heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) permit compliance in California.

### Why focus on permit streamlining?

- More efficient permit processes encourage compliance
- A gateway for regional compliance consistency
- Allows for better tracking of energy savings tied to HVAC change-outs
- Ensures safe and proper installations
- Levels the playing field for contractors who follow the rules

A streamlined HVAC permitting process can reduce the time and resources local governments spend processing permits. Faster permit processing results in increased throughput for building departments and increased economic development in the community.

“... an estimated 90% of residential central HVAC replacements [in California] are being done without a permit ...”

– California Draft Action Plan for the Comprehensive Energy Efficiency Program for Existing Buildings, June 2013

## Local Building Department Working Groups

In fall 2014, the Center for Sustainable Energy hosted working group meetings in San Diego, Los Angeles and the Inland Empire to present findings of the HVAC Permit Compliance Survey. The survey asked HVAC industry stakeholders to provide feedback on the residential HVAC alteration permit processes and compliance trends. The meetings also allowed building department staff to share and vet Title 24, Part 6 compliance barriers and best practices.

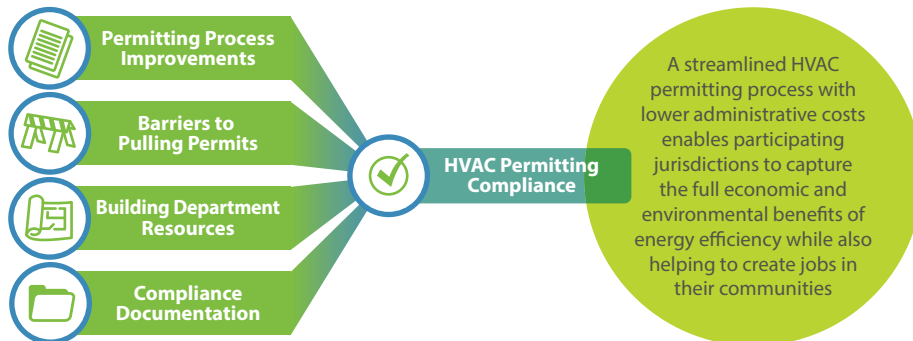
During **November 10-14 and 17-21**, a second round of local government working groups will be held in the San Diego, Orange, Los Angeles and Inland Empire regions. These meetings will be one-on-one opportunities for CSE staff and building department officials to discuss best practices and permit compliance strategies that are most efficient for their jurisdiction. The resulting information will be incorporated into the *HVAC Permitting Best Practices Guide* along with a model compliance toolkit to help building departments streamline their permit processes and achieve Title 24, Part 6 compliance.

## Who Should Participate

Chief building officials, building inspectors, plan examiners, permit staff/technicians, planners and any other local government staff invested in tracking energy reduction and efficiency.

## Set up a Meeting

To schedule a one-on-one HVAC working group with CSE, contact Marissa Spata at [Marissa.Spata@energycenter.org](mailto:Marissa.Spata@energycenter.org) or (858) 737-1584.



## HVAC Permit Compliance Survey (March 2014)

- 54 Southern California building departments
- 94 contractors, raters and permit runners

## Six Main Focus Areas

1. Barriers to pulling permits
2. Building department resources
3. Compliance documentation
4. Permit tracking
5. Reach codes
6. Training

## Center for Sustainable Energy

The Center for Sustainable Energy is a nonprofit organization that accelerates the transition to a sustainable world powered by clean energy. The center helps consumers, businesses, governments and others adopt energy efficiency, renewable energy and clean transportation technologies. Learn more at [www.energycenter.org](http://www.energycenter.org).

