Introducing the:
Code Innovations Database Project
The Code Innovations Database

A new web-based resource to help building officials, builders and other stakeholders to share information about successfully permitted green and high performance building innovations.
The Code Innovations Database

www.CodeInnovations.org
The Code Innovations Partnership

A Partnership between
Leading Pacific Northwest Jurisdictions
Colleges & Universities
The Northwest EcoBuilding Guild and
YOU!
What is a code innovation?

- A specific definable element of a construction project, i.e. a design, material or technology, approved by one or more jurisdictions through a non-prescriptive compliance path which has a positive environmental, social and/or economic value
What is a code innovation?

• Projects to be documented in Case Study
• A specific, definable element
• A design strategy, material, or technology
• Any type of construction project
• Approved (i.e. permitted) by one or more jurisdictions
• Non-prescriptive compliance path
Innovation Spurs Code Change

New Green Codes!

• New Products & Materials
• New Technology & Equipment
• New Designs

New Green Codes!

• Prescription
• Compliance
  • Testing
  • Evaluation

• Design & Engineering
• Research & Development
• Unmet Need leads = *Idea!*
Building Practices, Materials, Methods

- Constant Change driven by Innovation
- Codes play catch up
- Alternative Methods and Materials
- Added time & cost
- People avoid = less green building
- We want innovators to succeed!
Innovation is Good

- Innovative projects need code compliance
- Champion Does the work
- Gets the permit
- Breakthroughs in Green Building
- Document and Share this info?
- OR Remake the Wheel?
Clearinghouse of Successful Permits

• Open Source Information
• Discover a precedent
• Prevent Remaking the Wheel
• Unleash creative potential
• Learn from outcomes & patterns
• Sharing information is key
Examples

Sandoval Masonry Heater  Straw Clay House
Examples

Sandoval Masonry Heater
Benefits of Sharing Information

if we fill the database...

• Make your jobs easier

• Builders Save Time & Money

• Innovate more efficiently ... we’ll see:
  • more “green” projects designed
  • more building permits issued
  • more sustainable, energy-efficient homes and buildings built and retrofit
  • more affordable, accessible to more people
Designed for Education

• Student & Volunteer Researchers
  – Public Records Information
  – Data from the Innovators
  – Interviews & Field Visits
  – Internal Review by Those Involved
    – Owner
    – Designer
    – Builder
    – Approving Official
Lets build it!
A database of shared solutions

- Free Public Resource
- Case Studies of Permitted Innovations
- Library of Supporting Documentation
- Information & Insight on Compliance Paths
- Portal to Code-Setting Agencies & Green Codes
- Education & Research capacity supports Emerging Professionals
More than Just Details

• Subscribe to the “Code Innovations Blog”
• An ongoing story: Be a guest contributor
Building Officials & Permit Staff:

- Incorporate the Database into office
  - Flag projects in design review
    - Checkbox in computer system
  - Introduce/train staff
  - Review case studies

- Share it with your Customers
  - cards and brochures
  - counter or wall-mounted poster
  - printed binder with case studies
  - educational display

- Share info with other jurisdictions
Building Officials & Permit Staff:

- Review Innovations Easier
  - Geek out on innovation
  - Due diligence in review
  - Advocate for better building
Designers, Builders and Owners

• Learn from the Database:
  – Explore project ideas
  – Make your projects more innovative, efficiently
  – Past projects blazed a trail, made a map for compliance

• Publish Your Projects
  – Help develop new case studies
  – Positive Press! Tell the story.
  – Create a precedent for future permit
  – Share information with others & leave a legacy
Code Innovations Partnership

• Founding Member Benefits
  • Be recognized for your vision & leadership
  • Be the financial backbone that takes it forward
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• Other Benefits:
  – Customized case study research
  – Enhance your permit office
    – Engage & Educate Your Staff and customers
    – Encourage public participation
  – We will actively facilitate collaboration
Code Innovations Partnership

• More Benefits
  – Free attendance for staff at any Code Innovations workshop or training
  – Quarterly members report
  – Professional Membership in the Northwest EcoBuilding Guild
Let's build it!
A database of shared solutions

• A shared commitment to the project
  – Cultivating a sense of stewardship
  – Positive focus addressing new categories of risk

• Potential synergies
  – Public / Private Partnerships & Participation
  – Team effort between applicants and department
Code Innovations Partnership

- What is the value to you?
- Is it worth investing in?