ATAC Meeting Notes

March 7, 2013

Attendees:

Joshua Klyber, Terry Whitehill, Ron Hays, Aron Faegre, Ed Vranizan, Kathy Bash, Nancy Thornburg, Howard Thruston/Eco Guild

Committee has approved the final draft the letter of support for the 2014 Appendix to the OSSC for Strawbale Construction. The final draft will be on City stationary and signed by committee chair Ed Vranizan.

The committee asked Howard Thurston structural engineer/Eco Guild to consider a position on the ATAC to represent structural engineering. Howard will consider the offer and respond by the next meeting in April.

March 11, 2013 – Howard Thurston notified the ATAC of his intent to join the committee. Joshua Klyber has sent the application to Howard.





City of Portland, Oregon Bureau of Development Services

FROM CONCEPT TO CONSTRUCTION

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March 7th 2013

2014 Oregon Structural Specialty Code Committee Building Codes Division P.O. Box 14470 Salem, OR 97309-0404

RE: Proposed OSSC Appendix for Strawbale Construction.

Dear Committee Members,

This letter is to encourage the 2014 Oregon Structural Specialty Code Committee to adopt the Strawbale Construction Appendix, as currently drafted, into the 2014 OSSC.

Our group, The Alternative Technology Advisory Committee, reports to the City of Portland Bureau of Development Services and makes recommendations to the Administrative Appeals Board. As such, we review alternative sustainable technology submittals from applicants wishing to utilize innovative products and construction methods that don't meet prescriptive building code requirements. In many cases these are also products or methods that haven't been tested by a code-approved agency.

In Portland and across the nation, the public has become increasingly interested in projects that meet sustainability goals and achieve green building certification levels (such as LEED). As a result, the City of Portland Bureau of Development Services (BDS) has seen a growing desire to use innovative building products or construction practices that support these goals. BDS encourages the use of sustainable technologies that promote positive impacts to the earth's natural systems. These technologies are often difficult to evaluate against building code requirements. BDS has established the Alternative Technology Advisory Committee, made up of experts in sustainable technologies, building code and emerging construction techniques, to help the bureau evaluate new technologies.

Strawbale construction is a well documented building methodology that uses minimally-processed, highly insulative, and annually renewable materials.

We support the Appendix because it:

- Provides consistency across all Oregon jurisdictions.
- Updates Appendix R, originally adopted in 2000 by the State of Oregon.
- Defines design and engineering requirements.
- Provides a basis for plan review and permitting of strawbale structures.
- Specifies the inspection criteria related to strawbale construction.

Given the previous statements, we are in full support of adoption of the Strawbale Construction appendix into the

2014 OSSC.

Edward J. Vranizan, AIA

Chairman of the Alternative Technology Advisory Committee