

## **Resolution Adopting Goals of the Healthy Building Material Working Group**

**WHEREAS**, the Resource Management Commission created the Healthy Building Materials Working Group, which included some of its members as well as stakeholders from the community, to advise on ways that Austin Energy Green Building (AEGB) could encourage the use of non-toxic and less-toxic construction products; and

**WHEREAS**, AEGB periodically develops updated versions of their ratings and engages in a public engagement process; and

**WHEREAS**, it is understood that AEGB staff has a public engagement process to obtain feedback on the single family and multifamily rating systems; and

**WHEREAS**, a worksession of stakeholders will be considered by AEGB staff to get personal input, similar to what occurred in the summer of 2019; and

**WHEREAS**, it is understood that the Resource Management Commission will review the initial draft of the new Residential ratings, which will be presented the month of the launch of the stakeholder's engagement process; and

**WHEREAS**, it is understood that a parallel effort will be convened in development of the next version of the AEGB Commercial rating system;

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED** that the Resource Management Commission recommends that Austin Energy and the Austin City Council immediately adopt the goals of the Healthy Building Materials Working Group.

**Goal:** Decrease the use of the harmful generic chemical classes in building products with a priority on products installed in the interiors. These products include, but are not limited to: adhesives; cabinets; caulking; composite lumber, countertops; doors; floors; paints; plumbing pipe, wallboard, and windows.

These generic chemical classes include: antimicrobials; APEs; formaldehyde; heavy metals; PFAS and other halogenated compounds (including PVC and flame retardants); phthalates & bisphenols; and VOCs.

**Goal:** Accentuate the importance of healthy building materials and resources within the AEGB rating system.

**Goal:** To advance transparency, increase the number and percentage of building materials with Health Product Declarations.

**Goal:** Apply healthy building material strategies to all new and remodeled City of Austin buildings, acknowledging the Office of Sustainability's oversight of this issue.

**Goal:** Track and evaluate use of new healthy building material basic requirements and voluntary measures and associated points; update next versions of the single- and multi-family and commercial rating systems.

**Goal:** AEGB should incorporate information on presence of toxic chemicals in building materials and healthy material selection into educational offerings for the general public and the new rating systems.

**Goal:** AEGB should amplify and coordinate with the educational work of other organizations working to reduce toxins in building materials, such as: the International Living Future Institute; the Healthy Building Network; the U.S. Green Building Council; the International WELL Building Institute; the Health Product Declaration Collaborative; and the Green Science Policy Institute.

## **Addendum: Suggested Strategies for AEGB Consideration**

The following strategies were recommended by the Healthy Building Materials working group as helpful to the goals cited in these recommendations, but are beyond the role of general policy.

**Strategy:** Create a discrete subcategory in either the Materials and Resources or Health categories in AEGB ratings systems to list the menu of healthy building material points.

**Strategy:** The number of points that builders are required to obtain under the current system for each Star level should proportionally increase with the number of points added for healthy building materials and other new initiatives.

**Strategy:** Create steps to make the points more attractive, such as bonus points for exemplary performance.

**Strategy:** The Resource Management Commission will review and possibly make recommendations to the Austin City Council at least 60 days prior to the first implementation of new the rating system.