



COLD CLIMATE HOUSING RESEARCH CENTER

CCHRC

Promoting and advancing the development of healthy, durable, and sustainable shelter for Alaskans and other circumpolar people.

Our Mission

The Cold Climate Housing Research Center (CCHRC) is an organization that serves the technical and building performance needs of builders, developers, financial institutions, public officials, homeowners, and other end users in the cold climate regions of the world.

Located in Alaska, the CCHRC conducts applied research on housing and other buildings' performance in a broad variety of climates, particularly those extreme climates located in the circumpolar areas of the world.

The CCHRC tests product performance and whole-building performance, and develops and tests new technology and building methods appropriate for cold and other extreme climates found in high latitudes.

The CCHRC examines and evaluates the cost effectiveness of the building methods, materials, guidelines, codes, and standards used in cold climates. Alternative methods and building standards are evaluated for possible reductions in construction costs, improvements in energy efficiency, or improvements in whole-building performance.

The CCHRC examines and evaluates the performance of buildings constructed under Alaska's Building Energy Efficiency Standards and other building standards and programs used in circumpolar climates.

The CCHRC conducts research into building performance in response to periodic flooding, seismic activities, high winds, extreme temperatures, and other natural hazards as they might occur in those climates located in the circumpolar areas of the world.

The CCHRC works with building officials and financing groups to improve the quality, cost effectiveness, affordability, durability, and long-term performance of housing and other buildings, both existing or to be constructed, in the extreme climates of the circumpolar areas of the world.

The CCHRC programs have a firm connection to, and interaction with, the Alaska home building industry. The programs link research with practical industry needs, and the research findings with ongoing improvements in industry methods and practices. All CCHRC programs, projects, and testing focus on seeking workable answers to the real problems of building homes in severe polar and subpolar climatic areas.

The CCHRC is committed to the development, promotion, and adoption of techniques and methods of construction that promote safe, affordable, durable, and energy-efficient housing for Alaskans.



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Our History

The Cold Climate Housing Research Center (CCHRC) is an industry-based, private nonprofit corporation created to facilitate the development, use, and testing of energy-efficient, durable, healthy, and cost-effective building technologies for Alaska and the world's cold climate regions. In 1999 the Research Center was conceived and developed by members of the Alaska State Home Builders Association, representing more than 1,200 building industry firms and groups. Ninety percent of CCHRC's charter members are general contractors from across the state. The Alaska professional building community is highly regarded as a national leader in energy-efficient housing design and construction, boasting the largest per capita builders' association in the nation.

On September 23, 2006, we opened our new building, the CCHRC Research and Testing Facility (RTF), on the University of Alaska Fairbanks campus, which provides space for research as well as allows us to work more closely with students, faculty, and researchers at the university. The RTF houses two large laboratories, built to accommodate a wide range of research projects; and the building itself has more than 1,000 monitors, tracking everything from wall moisture content to permafrost movement beneath the building.

Alaska offers an excellent testing ground for cold-climate technologies and products. The geography provides the full range of climatic conditions a researcher would encounter across the northern United States — from the windy, cool, wet weather in the northeastern and northwestern states to the very cold, snowy conditions across the northern plains and Rocky Mountain regions. In addition, Alaska's cold season lasts for six months or longer in any given year, allowing ample time for researchers to conduct experiments and evaluate housing performance.



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Alan Wilson

Chairman of the Board



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Alan Wilson worked in the building industry in Northern California before settling in Juneau in 1993. In the years since, besides working as a builder, he has served as the Legislative Affairs Chair and President of the Alaska State Home Building Association (ASHBA) and also as President of the Southeast Alaska Building Industry Association. In 2005-2006 he successfully lobbied before the Alaska Legislature on behalf of ASHBA for the passage legislation tightening the licensing requirements for contracts and home inspectors. He is currently President of Alaska Renovators, a remodeling company, and has been appointed to the Affordable Housing Commission by the Juneau Assembly. Alan is a founding member of CCHRC, was elected to the board of directors in October 2007, and elected Chairman of the Board in November 2009.



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Jack Hébert

President/CEO



Jack Hébert
President/CEO
(907) 457-3454

Jack Hébert is currently President and CEO of the Cold Climate Housing Research Center, which is committed to developing and implementing techniques and methods of building that promote safe, affordable, durable and energy efficient housing for cold climate regions.

Jack has been designing and building homes in Alaska for over thirty years with the goal of creating high quality, well designed, environmentally-appropriate and energy efficient buildings. His planned communities reflect this philosophy as well. Jack has received numerous honors in recognition of this commitment, including the first State of Alaska Governor's Award for Excellence in Energy Efficient Design and the Energy Rated Homes of Alaska President's Award. He has twice been honored as the Alaska State Homebuilder of the Year.

Jack is owner of Hébert Homes, LLC, a corporation that builds homes and neighborhoods to the highest energy standards recognized. Jack was instrumental in founding the Cold Climate Housing Research Center. He acted as design team lead, project manager and superintendent on the construction of the CCHRC's Research and Testing Facility.

Jack is a very active member of the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB). He currently represents Alaska on NAHB's National Executive Board. He has served in leadership roles on local, state and national levels, including a term as President of the Alaska State Home Building Association.