



Shaping Tomorrow's
Built Environment Today

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TC/ TG/ MTG/ TRG Chairs & Vice Chairs,

We have heard from our membership that the current Functional Groups (FG - includes TCs, TGs, MTGs, and TRGs) structure is not working as efficiently or effectively as in the past. We need to determine how to be contributors and the driving force in our industry. From our recent membership survey, we identified the following issues:

- We are working in silos; too specific; need more global perspective
- Management of stagnant TCs and membership is lacking
- Takes too long to change things in TCs- members are getting discouraged
- We are not maintaining industry leadership
- We need to do a better job of sharing best practices

TAC owns these issues and we are working to address them. We have started to invest time and funds in technology/ forms, including BaseCamp, a new electronic roster tool, and a revised activity tracking form. In addition, a committee was formed a few months ago to look at reorganizing the FG structure. By taking on this reorganization, we hope to:

- Decrease the silo effect
- Increase collaboration for programs, research & handbook
- Increase meeting efficiency & increase the effectiveness of members' volunteer time

PROPOSED PLAN

There are over 110 FG meetings and 180 subcommittee meetings at every conference. Many of these meetings overlap each other, and/or run concurrently to the technical program, limiting the number of attendees that could attend and participate in the discussion & exchange of ideas.

We propose to re-form the existing FGs into about 30 new technical working groups (TWGs) based on similar scope & function, with merged attendance of between 75-125 members. The meetings would take place during a block schedule (see attachment), moving meetings into afternoon timeslots and utilizing technical program rooms (large rooms with AV). In these 2-hour slots, TWGs could present topical programs (to be included in the technical program), some business of interest to the group and subcommittee breakouts within their slot.

We now have an opportunity to direct the technical vision of the society as we will soon celebrate our 125th anniversary. We have presented a draft proposal to you and now we want your input and suggestions- talk amongst yourselves and feel free to talk to us. We are looking for your input on potential synergies with other functional groups, for example, if your FG were to reform with 1 or 2 other groups, which ones do you think most align with your current scope? Our goal is to discuss your questions and concerns in Atlanta and propose a working model for consideration in Kansas City and a rollout in Orlando (2020). Please direct your answers or inquiries to TAC through your individual Section Head or to Sarah Maston, the TWG Reorganization Chair. Thanks for all you do for your membership and ASHRAE!

Best Regards,

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