

# Commissioning for Human Health in Residential Projects

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## **ABSTRACT**

This session will explore how to apply Commissioning principles to ensure a healthier living environment for human occupants of residential buildings. While commissioning for the Building Energy audience is usually all about energy, the term merely describes a process of ensuring that design goals are met throughout construction and operation. The term is not exclusive to energy; in fact, in the United Kingdom the term 'Commissioning' popularly refers to a role aimed at improving the National Health System. Most building scientists and green building consultants are not public health experts. This session will first describe some of the most common aspects of buildings that affect human health. Secondly, the session will show attendees how to draw from existing tools and protocols already in the industry to create a commissioning process that goes far beyond energy efficiency to actually help improve the health of humans occupying buildings. Tools that will be presented include the Active Design Guidelines, the Environmental Protection Agency's Indoor airPLUS specifications, the WELL Building Standard, Enterprise Green Communities Criteria 2015, and LEED v4.

## **BIOGRAPHY**

Maureen McGeary Mahle is a Senior Vice President and Director of Sustainable Housing Services at Steven Winter Associates, Inc. (SWA), a leading research and consulting firm specializing in energy efficient and sustainable buildings. Maureen has certified over 7,000 green housing units in ten states. She works to tie human health to energy efficiency and green building, and her projects have been early adopters of Active Design Guidelines and the WELL Building Standard. Under her leadership, SWA is a three-time recipient of EPA's Indoor airPlus Leader Award for rating healthy homes.