Top 10 takeaways from CABEC

1. There is a well-established, passionate, close-knit community actively engaged with the CA Energy Code. As a newcomer in this growing industry, I felt instantly welcomed and encouraged by others to stay in this work.
2. This industry is rich and super important. California’s buildings account for a *quarter* of the state’s GHG emissions. Thus, decarbonizing buildings is a HUGE step towards CA’s clean energy goal.
3. This industry is not well-known. As California tries to reach its clean energy goal, it is important to make more people aware of this industry. This industry is a huge factor that needs more publicity and attention when it comes to combating climate change and cleaning our planet. A new generation of folks need to enter this job sector to continue this important work.
4. This annual CABEC Conference fosters meaningful, enriching discussions by bringing industry leaders (the CA energy commission, CA Public Utility Commission, local jurisdictions, and other stakeholders) together to share research findings, best practices, and offer input to one another.
5. There are a whole host of resources and education tools available to help make this material accessible. 3CREN, PG&E, SDGE, SoCal Gas, SCE, Energy Code Ace, and the CABEC mentor-mentee program are just a few platforms that have programs dedicated to educating homeowners, general contractors, sub-contractors, architects, energy consultants, etc. There are fact sheets, free recorded and live educational webinars, informative and engaging newsletters and so many more educational tools at the public’s fingertips.
6. This is a constantly evolving field so continuous education is a main part of the job. It’s important to have these conversations and engagement among different industry leaders annually due to new technology, appliances, and updates to the code and software models.
7. This industry requires a delicate balance. From an energy consultant’s perspective there are many factors at play – cost effectiveness, comfort level, energy usage, wants and needs of client, architect, builder and plan checker, location, orientation, climate, and much more.
8. It is important in this field to know how to read and analyze the code manuals to research something specifically related to your building project.
9. There are so many different paths you can take within this field. The CABEC Conference alone showed the various facets of this industry. There are many career paths that intersect within this field and require similar skill sets.
10. This is not a one man show. There is open communication and input considered in upcoming CA energy codes. Everyone within the field can voice their opinions and concerns and have them seriously considered by the CA Energy Commission.