

What is a Better Buildings Accelerator?

The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Better Buildings Accelerators are collaborative peer-to-peer networks designed to facilitate learning and leadership opportunities that result in new strategies and practices in clean energy deployment. Accelerators focus on partner-identified areas that aim to overcome persistent barriers to clean energy options. Better Buildings Accelerators are:



ISSUE SPECIFIC



TIME BOUND



RESULTS-DRIVEN

Through Better Buildings Accelerators, public and private sector partners and key stakeholder organizations forge connections and access valuable best practices that lead to smarter and longer-lasting energy savings solutions. Accelerators create the framework to work through clean energy deployment barriers by facilitating problem-solving among participants, peer-to-peer sharing, and targeted technical assistance. In addition to problem-solving, the Accelerators can sometimes identify new barriers, issues, or challenges that may be addressed subsequently by DOE or others. This approach does not work for all types of barriers. If it becomes clear that an Accelerator cannot solve an issue within the specific timeline, the Accelerator sunsets and the issue may become part of a larger program that DOE works to solve over a longer timeframe.

ACTIVE ACCELERATORS

The following Accelerators are currently ongoing.

- ▶ **Packaged Combined Heat and Power (CHP):** Participating organizations will validate that installation times and total project costs for pre-engineered, technically-validated packaged CHP systems can be reduced by 20% or more.
- ▶ **Sustainable Corrections Infrastructure Partnership (SCIP):** Partners will aim for total portfolio savings of 20% in their correctional facilities through energy and water conservation measures, integration of renewable energy technologies, and energy storage for resilience.
- ▶ **Sustainable Wastewater Infrastructure 2.0:** A continuation of the completed SWIFt Accelerator. Partners will advance sustainable water resource recovery facilities through data management, energy efficiency improvements, advanced technology integration, and project financing and share replicable solutions with the market.
- ▶ **Workforce:** Participants will work to increase energy efficiency knowledge in the buildings workforce, from architects and builders to facility managers and real estate professionals, by focusing on building interest, streamlining pathways to entry, and improving existing curricula and skills.

GET IN TOUCH FOR MORE INFORMATION

Share your challenge with us today. DOE is looking to engage on the next set of market or technical barriers by bringing new, impactful Better Buildings Accelerators to a community near you.

Interested in participating? Contact betterbuildings@ee.doe.gov to learn more about joining.

Better Buildings Accelerators Focus on Key Market Issues to Increase Clean Energy

Completed Accelerators

- ▶ **Building Energy Data Analysis:** Twelve partner organizations piloted DOE's Unique Building Identifier (UBID) tool in a variety of real-world applications, including building efficiency programs and market transformation initiatives. UBIDs enable spatial tagging to reduce barriers associated with joining different building datasets. Learn more in the [UBID Public Sector Implementation Guide](#).
- ▶ **Clean Energy for Low-Income Communities (CELICA):** Cities, states, community organizations, and others committed \$335 million to help 155,000 low-income households access energy efficiency and renewable energy benefits, collecting resources and lessons learned into [the CELICA Toolkit](#).
- ▶ **CHP for Resiliency:** Partners developed tools to help communities leverage CHP as a reliable, high-efficiency energy source for critical infrastructure, including the [Distributed Generation for Resilience Planning Guide](#) and the [CHP for Resilience Site Screening Tool](#).
- ▶ **Data Centers:** Participating organizations committed to reducing the infrastructure energy intensity of one or more of their data centers by 25% over five years. On average, partners achieved a 36% improvement in energy intensity resulting in \$3.9 million in annual cost savings; their work was compiled into [a toolkit](#).
- ▶ **Energy Data Access:** As a result of this two-year partnership with cities and utilities, 18 utilities serving over 2.6 million commercial customers nationwide provided whole-building energy data access to building owners. The Accelerator compiled its findings and results into a [Blueprint for Action toolkit](#).
- ▶ **Energy Savings Performance Contracting (ESPC):** Partners catalyzed more than \$2 billion in public-sector energy efficiency investments through the use of innovative and best-practice approaches captured in [a toolkit](#) on how to develop and enhance ESPC projects and programs.
- ▶ **Home Energy Information:** Partners developed replicable, sustainable approaches to making energy-related information easily accessible to home buyers and sellers through multiple listing services (MLS) and other reports, sharing best practices in [a toolkit](#).
- ▶ **Home Upgrade Program:** Administrators of home energy upgrade programs demonstrated the ability to bring services to more homes across the country by minimizing operational costs and improving overall program effectiveness.
- ▶ **Industrial Superior Energy Performance (SEP):** Manufacturers, utilities, and energy efficiency program administrators collaborated to demonstrate cost-effective approaches to implementing strategic energy management programs.
- ▶ **Outdoor Lighting:** Cities, states, and regional groups converted over 1.3 million poles to more efficient lighting options and compiled solutions to the barriers to system-wide replacement processes into a [decision-tree and toolkit](#).
- ▶ **Smart Labs:** Participants identified model strategies to overcoming common energy-efficiency barriers in labs, including operational changes, technological upgrades, and strategic energy management, publishing best practices in the [Smart Labs Accelerator Toolkit](#).
- ▶ **Sustainable Wastewater Infrastructure of the Future (SWIFt):** State, regional, and local agencies engaged water resource recovery facilities in their jurisdictions to accelerate a pathway towards sustainable wastewater infrastructure, and to improve energy efficiency at facilities by at least 25%. The results and best practices are published in the [Wastewater Energy Management Toolkit](#).
- ▶ **Zero Energy Districts:** Partners worked to demonstrate ways to cost-effectively meet zero energy goals and commitments by completing a detailed energy master plan, governance and business case model, and development pathway for a Zero Energy District that can be shared and replicated.
- ▶ **Zero Energy Schools:** Working with key stakeholders including states, school districts, and others, partners showed that Zero Energy Schools can be constructed with today's technologies at the cost of a conventional code-compliant school. The Accelerator outlined eight steps to creating a Zero Energy school in [A Guide to Zero Energy and Zero Energy Ready K-12 Schools](#).

Through Better Buildings, DOE aims to make commercial, public, industrial, and residential buildings 20% more energy-efficient over 10 years. Better Buildings partners represent public and private sector organizations across the country, working with DOE to share and replicate positive gains in energy efficiency. Learn more on the Better Buildings Solution Center.