

The **Better Buildings Initiative** is a national leadership initiative calling on state and local officials, corporate chief executive officers, university presidents, utilities, and other leaders to make commitments to improve the energy efficiency of their buildings and plants, save money, and increase competitiveness. The DOE has expanded this Initiative to engage leaders in a set of **Better Buildings Accelerators** designed to demonstrate specific innovative approaches, which, upon successful demonstration, will accelerate investment in energy efficiency and clean energy. The **Zero Energy Schools Accelerator** is part of the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) ongoing strategy to advance energy efficiency in the new construction market and accelerate the market adoption of Zero Energy Buildings.

K-12 schools have good replication potential and can lead the way to market transformation of Zero Energy construction. The Zero Energy Schools Accelerator aims to reduce the energy consumption of schools, while enhancing the educational environment for our nation's students and making Zero Energy Buildings mainstream. Each year, taxpayers spend \$6 billion on school utility expenses, consequently, schools spend more on energy than on textbooks and computers—energy expenses are second only to salaries.¹ On average, Zero Energy Schools use 80% less energy than conventionally constructed schools and the remaining energy required is supplied by renewable energy. This significantly reduces utility costs, often amounting to more than \$100,000 per year.² To help schools realize these savings, DOE will partner with Implementing Partners (states and school districts) and help them develop a road map for Zero Energy Schools.

The goals of the Zero Energy Schools Accelerator are to:

- ▶ Identify strategies to overcome market barriers related to building Zero Energy Schools
- ▶ Share solutions, resources, and technologies that help schools achieve Zero Energy goals
- ▶ Develop replicable road maps to build Zero Energy Schools
- ▶ Increase visibility and replication of best practice approaches and successful models

Accelerator Partners will collaborate with DOE to demonstrate successful models for Zero Energy Schools design and construction.

Implementing Partner Agrees To:

- ▶ **Appoint** an Accelerator point of contact
- ▶ **Identify** one or more K-12 school projects appropriate for pursuing Zero Energy goals within six months of joining the Accelerator
- ▶ **Prepare** a road map to outline key Zero Energy design parameters and address key barriers to achieving Zero Energy within one year of joining the Accelerator
- ▶ **Implement** the road map
- ▶ **Sponsor** 10 stakeholders per year to visit the closest Zero Energy School^{3,4}
- ▶ **Report** progress annually on developing the road map and provide annual utility data to DOE relative to the Zero Energy design goals, after school has been in use for one full year.

US Department of Energy Agrees To:

- ▶ **Appoint** an Accelerator point of contact
- ▶ **Support** partners in developing a road map
- ▶ **Develop** resources necessary to achieve Zero Energy status
- ▶ **Provide** technical support in implementing resources for cost-effective Zero Energy Schools
- ▶ **Provide** access to relevant precedent case studies for Zero Energy Buildings
- ▶ **Train** Implementing Partners
- ▶ **Recognize** partners for their leadership.

Agreement:

My organization is committed to the goals of this Better Buildings Accelerator and pledges to lead in identifying the best opportunities for Zero Energy Schools.

SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER SIGNATURE

DATE

SENIOR EXECUTIVE PRINTED NAME

Point of Contact Information:

ORGANIZATION

ADDRESS

REPRESENTATIVE NAME

TITLE

PHONE NUMBER

EMAIL ADDRESS

General Terms:

- ▶ All parties concur that this agreement is wholly voluntary and may be terminated by any party at any time, and for any reason, with no penalty.
- ▶ Partner will not construe, claim, or imply that its participation in the Better Buildings Initiative constitutes federal government approval, acceptance, or endorsement of anything other than Partner's commitment to Initiative.
- ▶ Partner understands its participation in the Better Buildings Initiative does not constitute federal government endorsement of Partner.
- ▶ Partner understands that the activities it undertakes in connection with the Better Buildings Initiative are voluntary and not intended to provide services to the federal government.
- ▶ Partner will not submit a claim for compensation to any federal agency.
- ▶ The Better Buildings Initiative will honor all requests to keep the Partner's information and data confidential.

1. Managing Energy Costs In Schools <https://www.xcelenergy.com/staticfiles/xs/Marketing/Managing-Energy-Costs-Schools.pdf>
2. U.S. Green Building Council (2009). LEED 2009 for new construction and major renovation. Washington, DC.
3. As an alternative, visit schools with energy use intensities less than 25 kBtu/ft²•yr.
4. Virtual tours along with a webinar with the owner can be substituted.