

The U.S. Department of Energy's **Better Communities Alliance** (BCA) is a collaboration with local government leaders, businesses, and institutions to improve the prosperity of American communities through clean energy technologies and solutions. The BCA is part of the department's **Better Buildings Initiative**, a national leadership program calling on companies, state and local governments, manufacturers, universities and schools, to make substantial commitments to improve the energy usage in buildings, homes, and plants to save consumers money and increase America's economic competitiveness.

Through the BCA, DOE connects an important network of city and county government partners with coordinated expertise, community-based resources, and peer-networking opportunities at the local level with access to national support.

Together, BCA Partners and Affiliates will help build the local capacity required for greater clean energy progress. A cornerstone of this alliance will be new partnerships with companies, philanthropic foundations, research and nonprofit organizations, and other groups that pledge expertise and design new programs to strengthen America's communities.

The goals of the **Better Communities Alliance** are to:

- ▶ **Deliver** integrated, community-scale support that enables local governments to achieve their energy, economic, and infrastructure goals, and replicate solutions;
- ▶ **Strengthen** engagement with public and private sector leaders to identify energy challenges and opportunities within communities;
- ▶ **Incorporate** knowledge and lessons learned into DOE programs, tools, and research;
- ▶ **Streamline** community access to new resources from the public and private sectors.

BCA Partners will collaborate with DOE to demonstrate successful models for furthering energy efficiency, sustainable transportation, and renewable energy in their communities.

Better Communities Alliance Partner Agrees To:

- ▶ **Participate** in at least one DOE qualifying leadership initiative¹
- ▶ **Appoint** a Better Communities Alliance lead within one month
- ▶ **Provide** information on current status and future target areas of clean energy achievement in your community through completion of a local profile within two months
- ▶ **Consider** opportunities to accelerate clean energy impact in your community
- ▶ **Share** information on clean energy solutions, barriers, and opportunities with DOE, other Better Communities Alliance partners, and affiliates
- ▶ **Participate** in Better Communities Alliance peer exchange forums

U.S. Department of Energy Agrees To:

- ▶ **Create** a customized portfolio of technical assistance tools, resources, and engagement opportunities available to support each Partner's clean energy goals
- ▶ **Facilitate** access to in-kind support, expertise, and research made available by Better Communities Alliance Affiliates
- ▶ **Provide** national forums for peer networking and dialogue on community energy planning integration and clean energy technologies
- ▶ **Align** and expand efforts to support local governments
- ▶ **Advance** the national dialogue on integrated urban and regional planning for clean energy
- ▶ **Recognize** Partners nationally to reflect their achievements

Agreement:

My local government is committed to the goals of the Better Communities Alliance.

SENIOR LEADERSHIP SIGNATURE

SENIOR LEADERSHIP PRINTED NAME

DATE

NAME OF DOE QUALIFYING PROGRAM(S)

Point of Contact Information:

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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 the 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. Information on U.S. DOE clean energy initiatives and projects available for local government participation are included in the BCA FAQ document.