

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 with one another 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 attention among participants, peer-to-peer sharing, and targeted technical assistance. In addition to problem-solving, the work of the Accelerators will sometimes identify new barriers, issues, or challenges that may be subsequently addressed by DOE efforts or other organizations. 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, given policy, regulatory, or other barriers, the Accelerator is sunset and the issue can become part of a larger program that DOE works to solve over a longer timeframe.

SPOTLIGHT – TOOLKIT: ENERGY DATA ACCESS: BLUEPRINT FOR ACTION

The U.S. Department of Energy's Better Building Energy Data Accelerator (EDA) was a two-year partnership with cities and utilities to improve energy efficiency by making energy data more accessible to building owners. As a result of best practices developed by the EDA, 18 utilities serving more than 2.6 million commercial customers nationwide will provide whole-building energy data access to building owners by 2017. This historic expansion of data accessibility will increase building energy benchmarking, the first step many building owners take to improve the energy efficiency of their buildings.

As a part of the Accelerator, [Toolkit: Energy Data Access: Blueprint for Action](#) was developed to help other building owners and communities facing similar issues and decisions. These resources included:

- ▶ Best Practices for Developing a Utility Whole-Building Data Access Solution
- ▶ Stakeholder Engagement Strategy Guide & Best Practices
- ▶ Guide to Data Access and Utility Customer Confidentiality
- ▶ Briefing Document on Statistical Analysis of Data Access and Privacy

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, and 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

Accelerators focus on topics that are recognized to have significant barriers that are impeding progress to reducing energy and have reached a critical point with a number of organizations rallying to overcome the challenge. The Energy Department has worked with over 170 organizations across the Accelerators. The Energy Data Access Accelerator effort has successfully ended, and the ESPC, Outdoor Lighting and Superior Energy Performance Accelerators will be completed and share actionable and replicable models in 2016 and 2017.

Active Accelerators

- ▶ **Clean Energy for Low Income Communities:** Cities, states, community organizations and utilities have committed to developing programs to better support their low income households, aiming to increase energy efficiency and solar installments to these communities by 2018.
- ▶ **Combined Heat and Power for Resiliency:** As a collaborative effort with states, communities, utilities, and other stakeholders, partners will develop plans by 2018 for communities to capitalize on CHP's strengths as a reliable, high efficiency, lower emissions energy source to keep critical infrastructure operational regardless of external events.
- ▶ **Data Centers:** Organizations including national laboratories, universities, and businesses participating in the Data Center Accelerator commit to reducing the infrastructure energy intensity of one or more of their data centers by 25 percent by 2019.
- ▶ **Energy Data Access (EDA):** This two-year partnership with cities and utilities demonstrated that energy data could be made more accessible to building owners. As a result of best practices developed by the EDA, 18 utilities serving more than 2.6 million commercial customers nationwide will provide whole-building energy data access to building owners by 2017.
- ▶ **Energy Savings Performance Contracting (ESPC):** Accelerator partners will reach their three-year goal in 2016, of catalyzing over \$2 billion in public-sector energy efficiency investments through the use of innovative and best-practice approaches to enhance ESPC programs.
- ▶ **Home Energy Information:** This Accelerator aims to make the availability of reliable home energy information included in residential real estate transaction by including home energy information into the multiple listing system (MLS) in 5 regions by 2018.
- ▶ **Home Upgrade Program:** Administrators of home energy upgrade programs are demonstrating the ability of bringing services to more homes across the country, by minimizing costs associated with managing and operating energy upgrade programs while improving overall program effectiveness.
- ▶ **Industrial Superior Energy Performance:** Manufacturers, utilities, and energy efficiency program administrators are collaborating to demonstrate cost-effective approaches to implementing strategic energy management programs in their facilities and service territories. Manufacturers in the Superior Energy Performance (SEP) Enterprise-Wide Accelerator are scaling SEP implementation at multiple plants within their portfolios, while utilities and program administrators are developing ratepayer-funded programs that promote SEP and similar initiatives to their customers.
- ▶ **Outdoor Lighting:** Cities, states, and regional groups are demonstrating practical and effective best practices to accelerate the adoption of high-efficiency outdoor lighting and improve system-wide replacement processes at the municipal level, with the goal of converting 1.5 million poles to more efficient lighting options.
- ▶ **Smart Labs:** Universities, corporations, national laboratories, hospitals, and federal agencies, will work together to develop standardized approaches to overcoming common barriers to energy efficiency in laboratories. Partners will document model strategies that include operational changes, technological upgrades, and strategic energy management approaches.
- ▶ **Wastewater Infrastructure:** State, regional, and local agencies are engaging water resource recovery facilities in their jurisdictions to accelerate a pathway toward a sustainable infrastructure of the future. Partners will seek to improve the energy efficiency of their participating water resource recovery facilities by at least 30 percent and integrate at least one resource recovery measure.

Though Better Buildings, DOE aims to make commercial, public, industrial, and residential buildings 20 percent more energy efficient over the next decade. This means saving hundreds of billions of dollars on energy bills, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and creating thousands of jobs. Better Buildings partners represent public and private sector organizations across the country, and are working together and DOE to share and replicate positive gains in energy efficiency. Read about how partners are increasingly working to catalyze change and investment in energy efficiency, and their proven solutions, in the [Better Buildings Solution Center](#).