

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 substantial commitments to improve the energy efficiency of their buildings and plants, save money, and increase competitiveness. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is expanding this initiative to engage leaders in a set of **Better Buildings Accelerators** designed to demonstrate specific innovative approaches, which, upon successful demonstration, will further accelerate investment in energy efficiency across our homes, buildings, and industrial facilities.

The **Clean Energy for Low Income Communities Accelerator** aims to lower energy bills in low income communities through expanded installation of energy efficiency and distributed renewables.<sup>1</sup> Low income households spend an average of 15 to 20 percent of their income on energy bills, whereas energy burdens above 6 percent are typically considered unaffordable.<sup>2</sup> Although the primary objective of increasing clean energy installations in low income communities is to help lower energy costs, a number of additional benefits would be provided. Energy efficiency can lower overall needs and costs for energy, and make buildings more comfortable.<sup>3</sup> Distributed renewables can reduce risk from energy costs, promote economic development, and improve the environment.<sup>4</sup>

### The goals of the Clean Energy for Low Income Communities Accelerator are to:

- ▶ Identify how to overcome market barriers related to clean energy installations in low income communities, particularly by leveraging the distinct advantages of energy efficiency and distributed renewables to create a more complete set of possibilities.
- ▶ Demonstrate successful partnership approaches for integrating energy efficiency and distributed renewables delivery across the key clean energy partners in a community, such as community-based organizations, program providers, contractors, financial institutions, and customers.
- ▶ Share solutions, resources, and technologies that help low income communities install energy efficiency and renewable energy.
- ▶ Increase visibility and replication of best practice approaches and successful models.

**Accelerator Partners** will collaborate with DOE to demonstrate successful models for expanding the installation of energy efficiency and distributed renewables in low income communities.

### Local Partner Agrees To:

- ▶ **Appoint** an Accelerator partnership lead
- ▶ **Convene** a local task force of key stakeholders whose support will be needed to increase energy efficiency and distributed renewables within six months of joining
- ▶ **Develop** an action plan for expanding energy efficiency and distributed renewables identifying clean energy potential and targets (kWh), budget needs, and potential funding sources within 12 months of joining
- ▶ **Complete** actions identified in the energy action plan to acquire 50% of needed funding, solidify business partnerships, and begin installing new energy efficiency and distributed renewable projects within 24 months; share results and lessons learned with DOE and other Accelerator Partners as approaches are implemented

### US Department of Energy Agrees To:

- ▶ **Appoint** a DOE point of contact for each partnership and provide regular check-ins as needed through the development and implementation of the action plan
- ▶ **Share** information and provide technical assistance (webinars and peer sharing series) to help Partners develop viable options for an integrated approach to energy efficiency improvements and solar installations
- ▶ **Develop** resources to help Partners identify, avoid, and overcome typical barriers involved in delivering a combined energy efficiency and solar PV program, and document best practice approaches to implementation and funding / financing
- ▶ **Provide** public recognition of Accelerator Partners for achieving milestones and commitments

### Agreement:

My organization is committed to the goals of this Better Buildings Accelerator and pledges to work towards expanding clean energy options to low income communities in my jurisdiction.

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 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. <http://communitypowernetwork.com/node/9486>

2. HHS LIHEAP Energy Burden Evaluation Study, 2005

3. Recognizing the Value of Energy Efficiency's Multiple Benefits, American Council for Energy Efficiency, 2015.

4. Assessing the Multiple Benefits of Clean Energy, A Resource for States, US Environmental Protection Agency, 2011