Introduction

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.

Importance of Energy Data Access

Across the nation, building owners are measuring and tracking the energy performance of their buildings more than ever before. Known as energy benchmarking, this process helps building owners manage energy consumption and reduce wasted energy. Yet, many owners are prevented from benchmarking and making energy efficiency improvements because they cannot access simple energy information for tenant-occupied spaces within their buildings. Building owners can't manage what they can't measure.

Working with partners from cities, states, and real estate organizations, utility leaders are developing innovative solutions. Many utilities are now able to aggregate the total energy usage within a building and send that information electronically to building owners, providing a valuable customer service that empowers building owners to reduce wasted energy and supports the goals of ratepayer funded energy efficiency programs.

Introducing the EDA Toolkit: Blueprint for Action

The Energy Data Accelerator Toolkit is a collection of resources featured in the Better Buildings Solution Center that will enable other utilities and communities to learn and benefit from the work of the Accelerator. It describes the best practices that enabled cities, utilities, and other stakeholders to overcome whole-building data access barriers. The Toolkit includes the following resources:

- **Best Practices for Developing a Utility Whole-Building Data Access Solution**

  Presents best practices for utilities to develop whole-building data access systems, based on the experiences of leading utilities from across the country.

- **Utility Best Practices Fact Sheets**

  Profiles how four utilities – Commonwealth Edison, Eversource, Pepco, and Puget Sound Energy – developed and implemented whole-building data access solutions.

- **Stakeholder Engagement Strategy Guide**

  Provides guidance on designing productive stakeholder engagement and outreach to support the development of whole-building data access solutions.

- **Stakeholder Engagement Case Studies**

  Profiles how the stakeholder engagement process in four locations – Boston/Cambridge, Philadelphia, Salt Lake City, and Washington, DC – led to whole-building data access solutions.

- **Beyond Benchmarking: Unlocking Value for Utilities**

  Presents a vision for utilities to combine whole-building data access capabilities and benchmarking outputs to help increase the effectiveness of their energy efficiency programs.

- **Guide to Data Access and Utility Customer Confidentiality**

  Provides guidance on how policymakers, utilities, and regulators should approach whole-building data access to maintain the confidentiality of utility customers.

- **Briefing Document: Statistical Analysis of Data Access and Privacy**

  Summarizes the findings of a Pacific Northwest National Laboratory analysis on how whole-building data aggregation thresholds statistically affect customer privacy.

Recognizing Partner Success

The following utility-city partners successfully worked together to develop and implement a whole-building data access solution during the Accelerator initiative:

- Eversource and the Cities of Boston, MA, and Cambridge, MA
- Pepco and the District of Columbia
- Rocky Mountain Power and Salt Lake City, UT
- Xcel Energy and the City of Minneapolis, MN

The following utility-city partners are working together to develop a whole-building data access solution that will be implemented by 2017:

- Kansas City Power and Light and the City of Kansas City, MO
- Los Angeles Department of Power and Water and the City of Los Angeles, CA
- Orlando Utilities Commission and the City of Orlando, FL
- Pacific Gas & Electric and the City of San Francisco, CA
- Questar and Salt Lake City, UT
- San Diego Gas & Electric and the Cities of San Diego, CA, and Chula Vista, CA
- Southern California Edison and the City of Santa Monica, CA
- Southern California Gas and the City of Los Angeles, CA

The following utility-city partners previously developed a whole-building data access solution, and contributed their time, expertise, and leadership to help Accelerator participants achieve their goals:

- Austin Energy and the City of Austin, TX
- Commonwealth Edison and the City of Chicago, IL
- National Grid and the City of New York, NY
- PECO Energy Company and the City of Philadelphia, PA
- Puget Sound Energy and the City of Seattle, WA

Additionally, the following organizations are committed to build on the outcomes of the Accelerator and continue to promote nationwide progress on whole-building energy data access:

- The American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE) will continue to provide technical resources to improve energy data access, including by convening utilities, regulators, and other stakeholders at workshops to facilitate the sharing of best practices.
- The Institute for Market Transformation (IMT), through its leadership in the City Energy Project, will continue to work with regional and national stakeholders to develop strategies to improve energy data access and provide technical assistance to local jurisdictions and utilities.
- The National Multifamily Housing Council plans to promote data access by facilitating outreach from multifamily industry executives to utility commissions and utility regulatory leadership organizations.
- The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), through its leadership in the City Energy Project and the Energy Efficiency for All project, will continue to study the value to utilities of making energy usage data available, and expects to work with utilities, utility regulators, and real estate and housing industry leaders to substantiate and implement data access policies.
- The U.S. Green Building Council will build on the energy data access achievements of its chapters in Minneapolis, Chicago, Montgomery County, MD, and other jurisdictions by promoting energy data solutions through ongoing community engagement and through performance measurement programs such as PEER and the LEED Dynamic Plaque.