

Better Buildings Challenge

Overview

The Better Buildings Challenge is a national leadership initiative calling on corporate chief executive officers, university presidents, and state and local leaders to make a significant commitment to building energy efficiency.

Stimulating Economic Growth

The energy to operate the buildings in which we work, shop, and go to school costs the U.S. approximately \$200 billion annually and, on average, 30 percent of this energy is wasted. The goal of the Better Buildings Challenge is to make American buildings 20 percent more energy efficiency by 2020 to reduce the nation's dependence on foreign oil, protect the environment, and save billions of dollars in energy costs that can be spent growing businesses, investing in new technologies, and creating American jobs.

The Better Buildings Challenge involves Partners and Allies:

- ▶ **Partners** are companies, universities, and municipalities that make a public commitment to implement plans to achieve lasting, organization-wide energy savings.
- ▶ **Allies** are service providers, financial institutions, utilities, and technology companies that make a public commitment to support the energy efficiency marketplace.

Demonstrating Leadership and Innovation

Better Buildings Challenge Partners are national leaders in building energy efficiency. By joining the program, they agree to:

- ▶ **Commit** to conduct an energy efficiency assessment of their building portfolio and pledge an organization-wide energy savings goal for the next two to five years.
- ▶ **Take action** by showcasing an energy efficiency project and implementing a plan to achieve lasting energy savings.
- ▶ **Report** results by sharing cost effective approaches for saving energy and performance data that demonstrates the success.

Supporting Partners and Allies

The U.S. Department of Energy, in conjunction with its federal partners, supports program participants by:

- ▶ Providing expert technical assistance and energy efficiency implementation models.
- ▶ Connecting Partners with a network of Allies (including financial, technology, and service organizations) that can help them achieve their energy savings pledges.
- ▶ Publicly recognizing Partners and Allies for achieving energy and cost savings and applying innovative energy efficiency solutions.

Realizing the Benefits of Energy Efficiency

Companies, universities, and state and local municipalities can quickly realize the benefits of improving the performance of their buildings including saving money and increasing their competitiveness. In addition, demonstrating a commitment to social responsibility can significantly strengthen an organization's brand and stakeholder loyalty.

The Better Buildings Challenge will nationally recognize Partners and Allies for achieving energy savings and demonstrating innovative and cost-effective energy efficiency solutions.

