

**What is the Better Buildings Challenge and why is it important?**

The Better Buildings Challenge is a voluntary leadership initiative led by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) that calls on CEOs of U.S. companies, and leaders of universities, school districts, multifamily residential organizations, and state and local governments to commit to a 20% energy savings goal in ten years across all the buildings in their portfolio. Organizations also agree to share their energy savings data and strategies as models for others to follow. DOE highlights the work these leaders are doing and highlights their innovative solutions as replicable models for others to follow.

To date, more than 200 organizations, representing more than 3 billion square feet, 600 manufacturing facilities, and \$2 billion worth of financial commitments have stepped up to the Better Buildings Challenge. Partners are on track to meet their energy savings goals, saving 2.5% annually for a total of \$300 million since the program launched in 2011.

**Why is the Better Buildings Challenge a good fit for the food service sector?**

Food service is among the most energy intensive building uses. Restaurants use about five to seven times more energy per square foot than other commercial building types, with the majority used for powering of HVAC, ventilation, and cooking systems. There are close to 300,000 food service facilities in the U.S., spanning 1.7 billion sq.ft. and consuming approximately 400 trillion Btu of energy per year.

Through the Better Buildings Challenge, DOE showcases the energy reduction strategies of leading organizations and is eager to have representation from food service companies including restaurants, fast food, and cafeterias. DOE will work with partners to share solutions and accelerate the adoption of efficiency technologies and measures.

**What kinds of organizations can become partners in the Better Buildings Challenge?**

Any food service organization can join. Full service, quick service, fast casual restaurants, cafeterias and convenience stores offering food made to order are also welcome.

**How is DOE ensuring that the Better Buildings Challenge works well for the food service sector?**

The food service sector is unique. Based on feedback from stakeholders, the energy use of food service establishments is correlated to the quantity of food served. DOE has adopted a kBtu per transaction metric for tracking energy use for this sector.

Food service partners commit to improving the energy efficiency of their buildings by 20% within 10 years, measured using a kBtu per transaction metric. Similar to other Better Buildings Challenge partners, food service partners will showcase individual locations meeting or exceeding the 20% savings goal, and share best practices through an implementation model. Partners can also provide data on a square footage basis if they prefer. DOE will work with partners to collect portfolio-wide whole building energy data and calculate energy use per transaction.

**Are my organization's franchisees included in the commitment?**

Food service organizations may join the Better Buildings Challenge with their company-owned stores and can also choose to recruit franchisees in a corporate-wide campaign. Franchise owners may also join the Better Buildings Challenge on their own and with the locations for which they can control energy use. The portfolio is defined as the set of buildings or sub-building spaces for which an organization controls energy improvements and has access to energy data and/or pays the energy bills.

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### **Will my transaction information be public?**

DOE will not release information about the number of transactions occurring at partner locations. Participating organizations will share their total energy use and total transactions per location with DOE. Partners' portfolio-wide progress toward the 20% goal will be displayed as energy use per transaction, calculated by dividing total energy use by total transactions.

### **When will we see results?**

Within the first year of joining, partners will share their energy performance data, a showcase project, and implementation model. All of these solutions will be made available on the Better Buildings Challenge website.

### **What does DOE offer Better Buildings Challenge partners?**

DOE offers recognition and technical assistance to partners to encourage investment in energy efficiency.