

The United States and the world face a profound climate crisis. To mitigate the impacts of climate change while creating jobs and strengthening the clean energy economy, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) are challenging multifamily organizations to set ambitious, portfolio-wide, and near-term operational greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction goals to showcase how they as leaders are taking measurable steps to address climate change. This initiative is part of the cross-sector Better Climate Challenge.

## What is the Better Climate Challenge?

The Better Climate Challenge is a voluntary, market-based platform for organizations to set ambitious, portfolio-wide, operational GHG emissions reduction goals and showcase how they are taking steps to address climate change.

More specifically, partnering organizations commit to reducing their scope 1 and 2 GHG emissions by at least 50% within 10 years. Partners also set an energy efficiency target as well, typically 20%.

By accelerating energy efficiency and other clean energy investments, reporting on progress, and sharing their plans and solutions for meeting their ambitious goals, partners help pave the way for others.

HUD is partnering with DOE to support this transformative market leadership program in the multifamily sector. HUD will work with DOE to provide technical assistance, facilitate peer-to-peer learning opportunities, share the work of leaders, and highlight real-world replicable solutions.

## What Kind of Multifamily Organizations Can Join?

Any organization with a portfolio of a minimum of two multifamily buildings and 250 units in the U.S. is welcome to join. Through this Challenge, DOE and HUD are striving to work with organizations across the U.S. economy to ensure broad participation and highlight leadership from a diverse array of public and private organizations across geographies.

## Why Should Organizations Join?

Through the Better Climate Challenge, DOE and HUD provide a national platform for organizations to make public commitments, share replicable solutions, leverage technical expertise, and gain recognition. The program builds upon the success of the Better Buildings, Better Plants Challenge and provides value to partnering organizations in the following ways:

### Engage in Market Transformation with Elite Leaders

- ▶ More than 950 organizations partner with DOE in the Better Buildings Initiative and represent market leaders in nearly every sector, including industrial, commercial, public, education, multifamily, and residential. HUD works with DOE to support multifamily sector partners.
- ▶ Partnering organizations can access this network of technical and industry experts to develop innovative cost-effective GHG reduction solutions.
- ▶ Partners will work with each other and HUD and DOE to address key challenges facing the affordable housing market with regard to decarbonization and building electrification.

### Peer-to-Peer Exchange and Technical Assistance Network

- ▶ Access technical assistance through DOE's national labs.
- ▶ Peer-exchange opportunities to learn and share real-world challenges and solutions through webinars, conferences, regional meetups, and other events.

### Recognition

- ▶ National recognition for achieving program milestones and GHG emissions reduction results.

## What About My Organization's Other Goals and Commitments?

Any organization willing to set a portfolio wide goal of at least 50% emissions reduction over 10 years is welcome to join the Better Climate Challenge.

This Challenge is intended to complement existing goals and commitments while adding value through a national platform for peer-to-peer learning, development of real-world pathways, and technical assistance from DOE and HUD.

Organizations that have established other similarly aligned commitments are encouraged to reach out to DOE and HUD to discuss how they can participate. For example, DOE and HUD will accept pre-established goals from organizations with an approved 1.5° Celsius aligned science-based target, on a case-by-case basis.

## What Does an Organization Commit to?

Partnering organizations agree to:

### Commit

- ▶ Publicly pledge to reduce GHG emissions across their U.S. building or plant portfolio by at least 50% over 10-years without the use of offsets.
- ▶ Pursue an energy efficiency target to demonstrate how their organization is prioritizing energy efficiency as a decarbonization strategy.

### Share

- ▶ Develop an organization-wide plan with GHG emissions reduction milestones.
- ▶ Participate in at least one working group to discuss barriers, exchange best practices, and identify solutions.

### Report Results

- ▶ Make available portfolio-wide energy performance and scope 1 and 2 emissions data through ENERGY STAR® Portfolio Manager® and/or a data collection spreadsheet.
- ▶ Report data annually for the duration of the 10-year challenge.

## What do DOE and HUD Commit to?

### Assist

- ▶ Provide technical assistance and decarbonization implementation strategies to support partners' commitment to measure, track, and improve portfolio-wide GHG emissions performance.
- ▶ Collaborate with partner on a regular basis.

### Connect

- ▶ Collect and share best practices and highlight options that have been used to measure and reduce operational GHG emissions.
- ▶ Facilitate peer-to-peer learning opportunities among partners and convene working groups to discuss barriers and identify solutions.

### Recognize Success

- ▶ Provide national recognition for achieving program milestones and GHG emissions reductions.
- ▶ Recognize partners that share innovative and cost-effective GHG reduction implementation strategies.

## How Can My Organization Join?

Existing Better Buildings partners can email their program contact(s), indicating interest in joining the GHG challenge.

Organizations can also email [betterbuildings@ee.doe.gov](mailto:betterbuildings@ee.doe.gov) if they are interested in joining.

## Profiling Partner Innovation and Success

- ▶ [The Better Buildings Bulletin](#) is a bimonthly newsletter welcoming new partners, listing news stories, broadcasting new partner solutions, offering opportunities to sign up for webinars, and more.
- ▶ [The Better Buildings Beat Blog](#) profiles partners as well as the ins and outs of energy savings projects.
- ▶ [Twitter](#) @BetterBldgsDOE tweets highlight partner achievements.
- ▶ [LinkedIn](#) posts amplify partners in the news and their solutions.