Better Communities®
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Community Toolbox Webinar and Dialogue Series

The Better Communities Alliance (BCA) Community Toolbox Webinar and Dialogue Series delivers tools, resources, and other information to support BCA Partners in the areas of integrated energy planning, building efficiency, transportation, solar energy, data management and analysis, and financing mechanisms. The series schedule is provided below. Please check back for updates to future webinars.

Upcoming Community Toolbox Webinars and Dialogues			
Title	**Date**	**Description**	**Registration/ Recording Link**
SolSmart: Assisting Communities Nationwide Harness Solar Energy	November 14, 2018 2:00-3:00pm ET	This webinar will introduce attendees to the SolSmart program of the U.S. Department of Energy Solar Energy Technologies Office, including current efforts and the opportunities available to local governments. SolSmart recognizes and provides support to local governments that seek to become "open for solar business." The program offers designation — at Bronze, Silver, and Gold tiers — for local governments that are making it easier and faster to harness solar energy, and provides no-cost technical assistance on soft cost reduction to participating communities. The webinar will feature representatives from Will County, IL and the City of Chattanooga, TN, who will discuss their experience working with SolSmart.	Register for the webinar Here
Provide Input and Help Develop DOE's Financing 101 Resource	January 16, 2019 2:00-3:00pm ET	This will be an opportunity for Better Communities Alliance partners to provide feedback on the development of a DOE Financing 101 resource. The purpose of this effort is create a set of tools to help state and local governments understand their role in implementing a financing program and how to understand different decision points on the path to standing up a financing program.	
Take Control of Your Energy Data in Seven Steps!	Feburary, 2019	Come and test drive the new Energy Data Management Guide – a step-by-step, web-based framework for establishing a robust and sustainable energy data management program in your organization. The user friendly platform is designed around three central pillars – Generate Buy-in, Build a Solid Foundation, and Hardwire Energy Management – and the simple interface enables users to easily access proven strategies, key data management tools, and relevant examples and case studies drawn from across the public sector. The webinar will feature one or more speakers from leading local governments who will share their experiences in energy data management.	
An Overview of Available Resources for Benchmarking and Transparency	March, 2019	The webinar will provide an overview of a new U.S. Department of Energy and Institute for Market Transformation benchmarking and transparency guide that provides streamlined access to key resources for state and local leaders that are developing and implementing building energy benchmarking and transparency programs in their jurisdiction. The guide covers program rationale, development, implementation, and impact evaluation. The webinar will feature a speaker from a leading local government who will share experiences in benchmarking and disclosure.	
State and Local Planning for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy	April, 2019	The webinar will provide an overview of planning resources for state and local leaders that are enabling expanded access to energy efficiency, renewable energy, and sustainable transportation technologies and practices across their jurisdictions. The webinar will feature a speaker from a leading local government who will share experiences in integrated energy planning.	

Existing Community Toolbox Webinars and Dialogues			
Title	**Date**	**Description**	**Registration/ Recording Link**
Lessons in Commercial PACE Leadership: The Path from Legislation to Launch	March 15, 2018 3:00 - 4:00 pm ET	Commercial property assessed clean energy (C-PACE) is a rapidly growing market and an opportunity for state and local governments to promote economic development and reduce energy waste. A new U.S. Department of Energy and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory report, Lessons in Commercial PACE Leadership: The Path from Legislation to Launch, aims to fast track the set-up of C-PACE programs for state and local governments by capturing the lessons learned from leaders. Join this webinar to review key takeaways from the report as it relates to C-PACE enabling legislation, program set-up, stakeholder engagement, and much more. The webinar will feature one or more speakers from leading local governments who will share their experiences in C-PACE.	View the Recorded Webinar Here
Learning to Work with Your Local Clean Cities Coalition	April 25, 2018 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm ET	The U.S. Department of Energy's Vehicle Technologies Office (VTO) Technology Integration Program works with nearly 100 local Clean Cities coalitions across the country to support the nation's energy and economic security by building partnerships to improve transportation energy efficiency and advance affordable, domestic transportation fuels and technologies. This webinar will provide an introduction to the work being done by these local Clean Cities coalitions, and tips on working with them to green your fleets. The webinar will feature two speakers who will share their experiences working with Clean Cities: Kay Kelly, Senior Project Lead on the Transportation and Hydrogen Systems Center's Technology Integration team at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), and Adriane Jaynes, Coordinator of the Tulsa Clean Cities coalition.	View the Recorded Webinar Here
Using Home Energy Score in Residential Energy Efficiency Programs	May 9, 2018 1:00 - 2:30 pm ET	This webinar will provide an introduction to the U.S. Department of Energy Better Buildings residential resources and an overview of the Home Energy Score and how it can be used to promote transparency in real estate transactions and to drive energy efficiency upgrades. Madeline Salzman, DOE's Acting Program Manager for the Home Energy Score, will provide an introduction to the program and its value to local governments, as well as recent program highlights. Kyle Diesner with the City of Portland, OR Bureau of Planning and Sustainability will share Portland's experience using the Home Energy Score as part of its ordinance which requires the Score at the time of listing.	View the Recorded Webinar Here
EVI-Pro: A Tool to Help with Charging Station Planning	May 21, 2018 3:00 - 4:30 pm ET	The webinar will introduce the new Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Projection (EVI-Pro) Lite tool, which allows users to project consumer demand for electric vehicle charging infrastructure. The tool helps communities understand their existing public electric vehicle charging infrastructure, as well as identify the amount of public charging needed to support the growth of plug-in electric vehicles at a local level. Presenters will include: Eric Wood, a vehicle systems engineer with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), will demonstrate how to use EVI-Pro Lite; Bud Braughton, an engineer with the City of Columbus, will discuss how the City has utilized EVI-Pro analysis in its transportation planning; Rachael Nealer, an analysis program manager in DOE's Vehicle Technologies Office (VTO), will discuss how EVI-Pro supports DOE's ongoing transportation analysis.	View the Recorded Webinar Here
City Energy Profiles and State and Local Energy Data Website	June 13, 2018 1:00 - 2:00 pm ET	This webinar will provide an overview of the Cities Leading through Energy Analysis and Planning (Cities-LEAP) project, which delivers standardized, localized energy data and analysis that enables cities to lead in energy efficiency and renewable energy innovation and integrate strategic energy analysis into decision making. The webinar will cover City Energy Profiles on the State and Local Energy Data website, which provides energy-related information for 23,400+ communities across the United States, as well as City Energy: From Data to Decisions, a DOE project with local governments to leverage their data and City Energy Profiles to address analysis needs in support of their energy goals. The City of Lafayette, CO will share their experiences in utilzing energy data and analysis.	Recording to be available soon
Distributed Generation for Resilience Planning Guide	July 12, 2018 3:00 - 4:00 pm ET	The webinar will provide an overview of the online Distributed Generation for Resilience Planning Guide tool that helps local governments identify critical infrastructure and determine the feasibility of combined heat and power (CHP) to increase the energy resilience of the identified infrastructure. Anne Hampson, Principal at ICF, will discuss the tool and insights from the Combined Heat and Power for Resiliency Accelerator. Barbara Meyer and Jane Epperson from the State of Missouri's Division of Energy will share their CHP outreach initiatives in support of the State's participation in the CHP for Resiliency Accelerator.	Recording to be available soon

Integrating Medium and Heavy Duty Natural Gas Vehicles into Your Fleet	July 24, 2018 1:00 - 2:30 pm ET	Learn about medium and heavy-duty vehicles that operate on conventional or renewable natural gas, available refueling options, and maintenance facility modifications needed to ensure the safe operation of gaseous-fuel vehicles. The webinar will feature John Gonzales, Senior Engineer at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) and Tracy Ochsner, Assistant Operation Services Director at the City of Fort Collins, who will share his experiences in planning for compressed natural gas (CNG) vehicle options.	View the Recorded Webinar Here
Benchmarking Trio of Tools	August 9, 2018 3:00 - 4:00 pm ET	This webinar will provide an overview of three benchmarking resources: Energy Data Accelerator Toolkit – a collection of resources that enable local governments and utilities to work together to overcome energy data accessibility challenges; Evaluation of U.S. Building Energy Benchmarking and Transparency Programs – a summary of program design and implementation characteristics and impacts for jurisdictions; and Commercial building energy benchmarking data – a dataset that helps cities analyze city-specific tradeoffs between different commercial building benchmarking and disclosure design features.	Recording to be available soon
DOE's ESPC Toolkit: Is There an App for That?	September 27, 2018 2:00 - 3:00 pm ET	The webinar will provide a high-level overview of the Energy Savings Performance Contracting (ESPC) Toolkit and talk about the importance of setting up a support infrastructure for successful ESPC projects. An ESPC infrastructure can include a community-wide assistance program for project owners, an active network of key ESPC stakeholders, and cultivating ESPC champions. The State of North Carolina will talk about partnering with local governments for successful ESPC projects and the City of Newark, NJ will describe the benefits of building a strong ESPC network.	Recording to be available soon
Introduction to the Alternative Fuels Data Center (AFDC)	October 11, 2018 1:00 - 2:00 pm ET	The Alternative Fuels Data Center (AFDC) provides information, data, and tools to help fleets and transportation decision makers reach their energy and economic goals through the use of alternative and renewable fuels, advanced vehicles, and other fuel-saving measures. This webinar will introduce you to the AFDC's available tools and resources, including case studies and MotorWeek success stories. The webinar will include a representative from the Technology Integration Program's Technical Response Service who will provide an overview of all the resources and tools available. It will also feature a Clean Cities coordinator based at a local government agency who uses the AFDC on a regular basis, and who will talk about how to make the most of these resources.	View the Recorded Webinar Here

Track
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Solar