

The U.S. Department of Energy's **Better Communities Alliance** (BCA) is a collaboration with local government leaders, businesses, and institutions to improve the prosperity of American communities through clean energy technologies and solutions. The BCA is part of the department's **Better Buildings Initiative**, a national leadership program calling on companies, state and local governments, manufacturers, universities and schools, to make substantial commitments to improve the energy usage in buildings, homes, and plants to save consumers money and increase America's economic competitiveness.

Local Governments Leading the Way

With more than \$302 billion leaving American cities and towns each year to pay energy bills, our local governments are stepping up to the challenge.¹ City and county leaders are setting ambitious goals to reduce community energy costs and improve local economies by harnessing innovative public- private partnerships; developing resilient, low-energy infrastructure; deploying new energy-saving technologies; and expanding renewable energy and future transportation options for their residents and businesses.

Yet, many city and county governments lack key resources to plan and fully achieve their goals. And even where energy outcomes are being achieved, local governments need common platforms that make place-based innovation and best practices transferable to peer communities nationwide. Overcoming these challenges will empower local governments to make even greater strides and ensure that local successes create new opportunities and progress for all Americans.

An Integrated Approach to Clean Energy

The Better Communities Alliance is a collaborative effort to provide local governments with integrated expertise, resources, and peer-networking opportunities from across the government, nonprofit, philanthropic, and private sectors.

The goals of the Better Communities Alliance are to:

- ▶ Deliver integrated, community-scale support that enables local governments to achieve their energy, economic, and infrastructure goals, and replicate solutions;
- ▶ Strengthen engagement with public and private sector leaders to identify energy challenges and opportunities within communities;
- ▶ Incorporate knowledge and lessons learned into DOE programs, tools, and research;
- ▶ Streamline community access to new resources from the public and private sectors.

Municipal and county governments are invited to join the BCA as Partners by participating in at least one qualifying leadership initiative or project led by DOE, and sharing information on local goals, areas of energy opportunity, and best practices with DOE and other BCA Partners.²

DOE will support Better Communities Alliance partners by providing:

- ▶ Technical assistance tools, resources and engagement as well as energy data analysis support;
- ▶ Opportunities to access support, expertise, and other resources made available by BCA Affiliates;
- ▶ A customized portfolio of existing DOE resources and engagement opportunities that align with the local priorities and interests of each BCA Partner;
- ▶ National forums for peer networking and dialogue with DOE leaders and experts; and
- ▶ National recognition and showcasing of efforts commensurate with achievements.

As part of the BCA, DOE also aims to partner with public and private sector organizations. Businesses, philanthropic foundations, nonprofit and research groups, local government networks and associations, and other types of organizations are eligible to join the BCA as Affiliates by committing to support local governments in achieving their energy, economic, and infrastructure goals. BCA Affiliate commitments will vary and are intended to align with the core capabilities of each organization.

DOE will support Better Communities Alliance Affiliates by providing:

- ▶ Promotion of the contributions and opportunities made available to BCA Partners;
- ▶ Participation in national forums with DOE and local government leaders; and
- ▶ National recognition and showcasing of efforts commensurate with achievements.

Learn More

Learn more about the Better Communities Alliance and the ways that DOE is already working with local governments to deliver energy efficiency, transportation, and renewable energy solutions by visiting betterbuildingsinitiative.energy.gov/bca.

1. Energy expenditure estimate from U.S. Department of Energy, State and Local Energy Data (SLED).

2. Information on U.S. DOE clean energy initiatives and projects available for local government participation are included in the BCA FAQ document.