

The **Better Buildings Initiative** is a national leadership initiative calling on state and local officials, corporate chief executive officers, university presidents, utilities, and other leaders to make substantial commitments to improve the energy efficiency of their buildings and plants, save money, and increase competitiveness. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is expanding this initiative to engage leaders in a set of **Better Buildings Accelerators** designed to demonstrate specific innovative approaches, which, upon successful demonstration, will further accelerate investment in energy efficiency across our homes, buildings, and industrial facilities.

The **Home Upgrade Program Accelerator** is designed to help home energy upgrade programs bring services to more homes across the country by leveraging data management strategies that minimize costs while improving overall program effectiveness. These programs are currently completing hundreds of thousands of home upgrades annually with average savings of 20%. By improving processes to manage and track home upgrades, review quality, and evaluate impact, programs can scale up to reach goals of completing millions of home energy upgrades annually. Partners in the Accelerator are administrators of energy efficiency programs who will demonstrate a range of best practices to minimize costs while improving and expanding program achievement, including through the use of information technology and adoption of common data standards to streamline data exchange, among other approaches. Key collaborators may include developers of program management and home energy assessment software that implement common data standards to streamline data exchanges. The **Home Upgrade Program Accelerator** aims to significantly reduce administrative program burden from May 2015 to May 2018 and to share approaches and technical solutions with the greatest impact.

#### Accelerator Partner Agrees to:

- ▶ **Appoint** an Accelerator partnership lead.
- ▶ **Pledge** to implement HPXML and other practices to reduce the administrative burden of collecting home energy upgrade data over the next three years.
- ▶ **Work** with DOE to identify one or more barriers to implementing HPXML, or other opportunities for process improvements to reduce administrative costs or improve quality assurance in home upgrade programs within 4 months of joining; and work with DOE and other Accelerator Partners to implement solutions within 36 months.
- ▶ **Participate** in technical assistance and/or peer sharing forums.
- ▶ **Share** materials, results, and lessons learned from their innovative approaches.
- ▶ **Report** on progress towards the goal annually including providing information on program administration costs and progress in reducing those costs.

#### The U.S. Department of Energy Agrees to:

- ▶ **Appoint** a DOE point of contact for each partnership.
- ▶ **Facilitate** the development of best practice approaches in collaboration with Accelerator Partners, including publicizing successful projects, developing additional use cases for HPXML with Partners, and sharing methods for estimating cost reductions.
- ▶ **Share information** and provide technical assistance (webinars and tailored training) on successful approaches to improve data quality and reduce home energy upgrade program data costs.
- ▶ **Develop Resources** to help Accelerator Partners reduce the time to implement HPXML and other approaches to reduce administrative costs.
- ▶ **Provide public recognition** of Accelerator Partners for achieving milestones and commitments.

The goals of the **Home Upgrade Program Accelerator** include:

- ▶ Demonstrate and document significant reductions in administrative costs associated with home energy upgrade data collection and review.
- ▶ Demonstrate successful data management strategies, including implementation of HPXML affecting at least 25% of home energy upgrades nationally.
- ▶ Demonstrate additional approaches for reducing program administrative costs while expanding completion of home energy upgrades.
- ▶ Share information and resources to improve data collection and transfer to help reduce program administration costs broadly across home energy upgrade programs.

### Agreement

My organization is committed to the goals of this Better Buildings Accelerator and pledges to set, within four months, specific commitments to track, and demonstrate leadership in streamlining information exchange and using of home energy upgrade data to improve program effectiveness.

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**Senior Executive Office**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Date**

### Contact Information

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

### General Terms

- ▶ All parties concur that this agreement is wholly voluntary and may be terminated by any party at any time, and for any reason, with no penalty.
- ▶ Partner will not construe, claim, or imply that its participation in the Better Buildings Initiative constitutes Federal Government approval, acceptance, or endorsement of anything other than Partner's commitment to the initiative.
- ▶ Partner understands its participation in the Better Buildings Initiative does not constitute Federal Government endorsement of Partner.
- ▶ Partner understands that the activities it undertakes in connection with the Better Buildings Initiative are voluntary and not intended to provide services to the Federal Government. Partner will not submit a claim for compensation to any federal agency.
- ▶ The Better Buildings Initiative will honor all requests to keep the Partner's information and data confidential.