

Better Buildings is a national leadership initiative calling on corporate chief executive officers, university presidents, utilities, state and local officials, and other leaders to make substantial commitments to improve the energy efficiency of their buildings and plants, save money, and increase competitiveness. The cornerstones are a commitment to a 20% or more savings target across the organizations' portfolios and a commitment to share strategies that work, substantiated by energy data across the portfolios. 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 accelerate investment in energy efficiency.

The **Workforce Accelerator** will support efforts that raise the level of building science and energy efficiency knowledge in the nation's building-related workforce. The goal is to set the U.S. on a course toward a more energy-efficient and high-performing building stock. This three-year effort will support the vision of the U.S. building workforce as a global leader in delivering quality efficiency products and services to American residents and businesses, thereby increasing energy affordability across the economy.

Accelerator Goals:

► Build Interest

Increase the awareness and diversity of the energy efficiency field. Showcase building energy efficiency careers as welcoming, impactful, and rewarding. Build awareness of these careers.

► Streamline Pathways

Clarify the pathways for building energy efficiency careers. Incorporate efficiency education into established programs.

► Improve Skills

Update continuing education modules. Improve building science curricula. Increase training on digital tools to manage performance and fault detection.



Construction workers installing an energy efficient prefabricated building envelope. Source: U.S. Department of Energy.

Why the Buildings Energy Efficiency Workforce is Important

Energy efficiency supports the U.S. economy and the environment. Efficient and grid-interactive buildings are more comfortable, affordable, and healthy to occupy. There are great career opportunities to bring these benefits to consumers. We spend more than [\\$400 billion each year](#) each year in the U.S. to power our homes and buildings. There is growing need for workers that enable energy efficiency to reduce energy bills, protect natural resources, and create better buildings.

Cost-effective energy efficiency upgrades in U.S. buildings could save [\\$100 billion each year](#) in energy bills and 30% of electricity use. This translates to an estimated annual savings of \$400 for each household with energy-saving upgrades. These savings are only possible when knowledgeable workers design the equipment and buildings, provide quality installation of equipment, and communicate energy efficiency benefits to buyers.

Over two million Americans already work in the building energy efficiency sector, but many receive little training on these technologies before entering the workforce.

Through the Workforce Accelerator, DOE and Accelerator Partners will take action to increase energy efficiency knowledge in the buildings workforce, from architects and builders to facility managers and real estate professionals. This includes improving building science curricula throughout the education and training system, including K-12 through post-secondary education and on-the-job training programs, and showcasing career opportunities and pathways. Organizations like educators, training providers, industry practitioners, trade associations, utilities, and/or government agencies are all welcome to join the Accelerator.

Partner Benefits and Recognition

Organizations can become Partners in the Workforce Accelerator by signing a voluntary agreement and identifying an organizational goal to work towards within the three-year Accelerator program. Benefits include:

- ▶ Receive technical assistance from building science experts through DOE and its National Laboratories.
- ▶ Learn from others about what works and what to avoid.
- ▶ Demonstrate your organization's leadership in building the future efficiency workforce and get recognized by DOE for your efforts.
- ▶ Gain access to and provide input on resources, including guidance documents, case studies, and educational materials, that help build the efficiency workforce.
- ▶ Engage with other Partners by sharing expertise and progress toward goals.

Visit the [Workforce Accelerator on the Better Buildings Solution Center](#) to view and download the full Partnership Agreement.

For more information please contact:
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Challenges Facing the U.S. Building Energy Efficiency Workforce



Low Interest & Awareness

Many students say they are unaware or uninterested in needed efficiency careers.



Lack of Diversity

Women and black Americans are underrepresented in the efficiency workforce.



Confusing Pathways

Building science programs are fragmented and nontransparent in terms of suitability and quality.



Lack of Efficiency Continuing Education

Efficiency employers report difficulty finding qualified workers.



Low Productivity

Multifamily and retrofit construction lags the economy in productivity and digitization.



Poor Quality Installation

Without proper installation and maintenance, buildings can often lose out on as much as 30% on energy savings.