

Local governments across America are implementing energy-saving projects to strengthen local economies, create new jobs, and improve the quality of life for their residents, yet they often lack key resources to achieve their goals.

Through the **Better Communities Alliance** (BCA), the U.S. Department of Energy is introducing *Commitments for Better Communities*, a partnership initiative to help match resources from public and private sector organizations to local government needs. The outcome of this initiative is an expansion of resources for communities that support their achievement of local energy and economic goals, while enabling participating public and private sector organizations to demonstrate innovative solutions. betterbuildingsolutioncenter.energy.gov/commitments-better-communities

Overview

Through this initiative, a subset of BCA Affiliate Partners have identified resources that can be made available to BCA Local Government Partners to help them advance their energy priorities and achieve their energy and economic goals. Resources may include but are not limited to:

- ▶ Energy efficiency technical assistance or educational efforts;
- ▶ Energy efficiency research or best practices guidance;
- ▶ Data analysis support;
- ▶ Energy-saving product demonstration or pilot programs; and
- ▶ Energy-related training programs for local government staff.

All resources identified by participating BCA Affiliate Partners for the Commitments for Better Communities initiative will be provided on an in-kind basis to the selected Local Government Partner(s).

Local Government Partners may apply to access resources identified by Affiliate Partners through an application process facilitated by DOE. The application process will begin on July 12, 2017. Project implementation will run for four months. DOE will evaluate and publish a summary of outcomes and impacts of the initiative following the conclusion of the initiative.

Schedule

Activity	Date (2017)
Application process opens for Local Government Partners	July 12
Application process closes	Aug. 4
Local Government Partner recipients announced	Aug. 18
Initiative begins	Aug. 21
Initiative concludes	Dec. 18
DOE publishes summary of outcomes and impacts	Jan. 29, 2018

Application Process

DOE will facilitate a simple application process for Local Government Partners to apply for resources identified by Affiliate Partners. Each Affiliate Partner, not DOE, will make the final determination on which Local Government Partners receive their respective resource(s).

To apply, Local Government Partners will complete a short application form for each resource opportunity in which they are interested, which includes the following information:

- ▶ Specific interest in the resource and how it supports the achievement of local energy and economic goals
- ▶ Timeframe for implementation
- ▶ Identification of a local government staff person to coordinate with the Affiliate Partner
- ▶ Other information as requested by the Affiliate Partner

All application forms can be downloaded on the Better Communities website. Completed applications should be submitted to Monica Kanojia at monica.kanojia@ee.doe.gov.

To maximize the number of Local Government Partners that receive resources through the initiative, Local Government Partners may apply to no more than two resource opportunities in any given round of the initiative.

Eligibility and General Terms

The *Commitments for Better Communities* initiative is open to municipal and county government (Local Government) Partners, and organizational Affiliate Partners, in DOE's Better Communities Alliance. Other local governments may be eligible to participate in specific resource opportunities if deemed appropriate by DOE. Participation by Local Government Partners and Affiliate Partners in the initiative is voluntary. The general terms of the initiative are:

- ▶ Applying for a resource identified by an Affiliate Partner does not guarantee a Local Government Partner will receive any resource
- ▶ Affiliate Partners that have identified resources for the initiative will not construe, claim, or imply that its participation in the initiative constitutes Federal Government approval, acceptance, or endorsement of anything other than Partner's commitment to the initiative
- ▶ All resources identified by Affiliate Partners are done so on a wholly voluntary basis and may be terminated by any party at any time, and for any reason, with no penalty

Role of DOE

DOE's role in the initiative includes the following activities:

- ▶ Assess resources identified by Affiliate Partners to ensure that they have the potential to add substantive value for Local Government Partners
- ▶ Develop an efficient and consistent application process for Local Government Partners and Affiliate Partners, including a template application which Affiliate Partners may customize
- ▶ Provide public recognition of the resources identified by Affiliate Partners for the initiative
- ▶ Collect information related to the implementation of resources to assess quality and impact
- ▶ Recognize Local Government Partners and Affiliate Partners for resulting achievements

ABOUT THE BETTER COMMUNITIES ALLIANCE

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 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 money and increase competitiveness.

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