



ZERO ENERGY COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS CONSORTIUM

www.zeroenergycbc.org

A public/private consortium, working with DOE to develop and deliver technology, policies, and practices to achieve a market transition to Zero Net Energy Commercial Buildings by 2030

Need and Opportunity

There is a growing consensus on the need for aggressive public and private action to deal with increasing energy costs and global climate change. In the U.S., buildings account for approximately 40% of total energy consumption and 40% of greenhouse gas emissions. About half of this is attributable to the commercial sector, and commercial building energy use is growing more rapidly than residential sector energy. Dramatic improvements in the energy performance of commercial buildings can reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions more quickly and more cost-effectively than many other options – while helping reduce the impact of rising and increasingly volatile energy prices.

Many stakeholders, including industry and professional associations; voluntary high-performance building organizations; codes and standards organizations; and many leading utilities, state and local agencies, and private building designers, developers, owners and operators, and equipment manufacturers have all recognized the need for more aggressive and effective action.

Transforming energy performance in commercial buildings requires a comprehensive and concerted industry effort, sufficient in scale to influence the more than \$500B per year that the sector spends on new construction, renovation and energy.

What is a Net-Zero Energy Building?

A Net-Zero Energy Building is a high-performance building that uses integrated energy-saving technologies and practices to achieve very low energy use and carbon emissions, and produces from renewable sources at least as much energy as it uses in a year.

(Read more at the [DOE Buildings Technologies website](#))

Congress and DOE Respond

In 2007, Congress created the [Zero Net Energy Commercial Buildings Initiative \(CBI\)](#) as part of the Energy Independence and Security Act (§421, 422 et seq.). Officially launched by the U. S. Department of Energy (DOE) on August 5, 2008, the goal of the initiative is to “develop and disseminate technologies, practices, and policies for establishment of zero net energy commercial buildings.” Major milestones are achieving zero net energy buildings in:

- New commercial buildings by 2030;
- Fifty percent of all commercial building stock by 2040; and
- All commercial buildings by 2050.



Since 2007, with strong support from several advocacy organizations, the DOE FY09 budget for commercial buildings has grown to \$33 million, with additional resources from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act demonstrating continued commitment to CBI goals at the federal level.

DOE supports Zero Energy Commercial Buildings Consortium to coordinate private and public sector involvement with DOE in technology and market assessments and other activities to help DOE accomplish the goals of CBI.

Zero Energy Commercial Buildings Consortium



Led by a Steering Committee representing prominent national industry, NGO, and public organizations, the Consortium was formally launched in 2009 as the outgrowth of a multi-year organizing effort. The Consortium brings together a broad range of commercial building stakeholders to collaborate with DOE to accelerate technology innovation, process change, and market transformation to advance zero energy performance in new and existing commercial buildings. As a broad-based public/private partnership, the Consortium builds on the membership of the High-Performance Commercial Green Buildings Partnership, convened by ASHRAE in early 2009 in response to an earlier DOE invitation to form an industry advisory group. Consortium members will work with DOE to plan, coordinate, and assist in implementing a comprehensive strategy to transform energy performance in the commercial sector through:

- ***Innovation*** – Helping to identify and characterize promising new technologies, innovative market mechanisms, and effective public policies – and recommending priorities for technology R&D, demonstrations, and pilot programs.
- ***Demonstration*** – Proving that technologies, market mechanisms, and policies work and are well-documented prior to promoting their widespread deployment.
- ***Deployment*** – Helping to design, initiate, and evaluate deployment programs for proven energy-saving technologies that are promising but underutilized.

How You Can Get Involved

Membership in the Consortium is open to all organizations interested in advancing energy-efficient commercial building technologies, practices and policies. At present, there are over 200 public and private Consortium members, including building designers, owners and operators, financiers, manufacturers, state and regional policy makers and program planners, researchers, funding agencies and other stakeholders.

Please visit us online at:

www.zeroenergycbc.org

We invite all interested parties to join us in planning strategic directions and future initiatives. Go online to www.zeroenergycbc.org/membership to complete an online registration form today. There is no fee to join.

For questions, please contact Kate Marks, National Association of State Energy Offices (kmarks@naseo.org).