

Zero Energy Commercial Buildings Consortium

The public-private Zero Energy Commercial Buildings Consortium works with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to develop and deliver technology, policies, and practices that will dramatically improve the energy performance of the nation's existing and new commercial buildings.

The energy consumption of commercial buildings has a direct impact on not only the global environment, but also businesses' bottom lines. Today, commercial buildings account for nearly 20 percent of the United States' total energy consumption and 20 percent of greenhouse gas emissions. In addition, many businesses have determined that energy is their second- or third-highest—and most controllable—operating cost. Emerging practices and technologies in the retrofiting of existing buildings and the construction of new buildings can reduce energy consumption, greenhouse gas emissions, and the impact of increasingly volatile energy costs.

The Commercial Building Initiative (CBI) was established in 2008 by DOE to dramatically reduce the energy consumption of the nation's existing and new commercial buildings as mandated by the Energy Independence and Security Act (EISA) of 2007. The requirements of EISA call for the nation to realize economically viable net-zero energy buildings in new construction by 2030, in half the stock by 2040, and for all buildings by 2050. Meeting this



aggressive goal will require significant advancements in energy-efficiency technologies and strategies.

CBI coordinates projects among DOE, its national laboratories, the private and public sector, federal agencies, and non-government organizations to speed the development of energy-efficient building technologies. Because DOE recognizes the importance of engaging building organizations and stakeholders in this initiative, it launched the Zero Energy Commercial Buildings Consortium.

Formally launched in 2009, the Zero Energy Commercial Buildings Consortium provides DOE access to its hundreds of members' technical expertise, communicates the emergence of new technologies to the commercial building community, and promotes the demonstration of high-performance building technologies. DOE selected the National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO) as a convener of the consortium because it has the collective expertise to move the market toward exemplary energy performance in five target markets: commercial real estate, retail, hospitals, higher education, and state and local governments.

Led by a steering committee representing national industry, governmental, and public organizations, the consortium aims to assist DOE by:

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

The consortium's current tasks include identifying potential next-generation technologies, identifying barriers and solutions for industry acceptance, and collaborating with commercial building stakeholders.

Membership

Currently, more than 200 building designers, owners and operators, financiers, manufacturers, state and regional policy makers, researchers, and other stakeholders are members of the consortium.

Consortium membership is open to all organizations interested in advancing energy-efficient commercial building technologies, practices, and policies. It is free to join, and an online registration form is available at www.zeroenergycbc.org/membership.php.

Types of Membership

There are two types of memberships available to those interested in joining the consortium: active and corresponding.

Active consortium members receive regular correspondence and are recognized as active members on the consortium's Web site. These members also commit time and resources to the goals of the consortium by:

- Participating in one or more Project Teams
- Contributing best practices and case studies
- Reviewing consortium reports
- Promoting the consortium at industry events
- Collaborating with other consortium members.

Active consortium members participate in consortium Project Teams, which are the primary mechanism for industry input and collaboration in support of consortium activities and objectives.

There are currently several Project Teams, including:

- The Technologies and Practices Project Teams, which largely support the Next Generation Technologies Report
- The Market and Policy Project Teams, which support the Analysis of Cost and Non-Cost Barriers Report.

Project Team Chairs actively explore opportunities to collaborate across the groups.

Corresponding consortium members include those members who cannot commit to the duties of an active member but still want to show support for the program and its objectives. These members receive program updates and are recognized as corresponding members on the consortium's Web site.

For more information, visit the Zero Energy Commercial Buildings Consortium at www.zeroenergycbc.org.

About NASEO

The National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO) is the only national nonprofit organization whose membership includes the governor-designated energy officials from each state and territory. NASEO was formed by the states and through an agreement with the National Governors Association in 1986. It was created to improve the effectiveness and quality of state energy programs and policies, provide policy input and analysis, share successes among the states, and act as an information repository for issues of particular concern to the states and their citizens. NASEO is an agency of the states and derives basic funding from the states and the federal government. Members are senior officials from the State and Territory Energy Offices, as well as affiliates from the private and public sectors.

In November 2009, DOE selected NASEO to convene the Zero Energy Commercial Buildings Consortium. A steering committee made up of NASEO members and lighting, window, and heating, ventilation, and air conditioning suppliers outline and drive the consortium's goals and objectives.

A Strong Energy Portfolio for a Strong America

Energy efficiency and clean, renewable energy will mean a stronger economy, a cleaner environment, and greater energy independence for America. Working with a wide array of state, community, industry, and university partners, the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy invests in a diverse portfolio of energy technologies.