



# Better Buildings *for a* Better Future



“Block by block, neighborhood by neighborhood, we will make our communities more energy efficient and help families save money.”

Dr. Steven Chu, Secretary,  
U.S. Energy Department

Homes and commercial buildings consume 40% of our energy in the United States and are responsible for nearly 40% of the country’s greenhouse gas emissions. The Better Buildings Neighborhood Program helps consumers and building owners use energy more efficiently to better our homes, neighborhoods, lives, and the economy.

## What Is the Better Buildings Neighborhood Program?

The Better Buildings Neighborhood Program is part of a national Better Buildings initiative led by the U.S. Energy Department working with hundreds of neighborhoods across the country to promote energy efficiency upgrades in homes and other buildings. Better Buildings partners are making it easier for home and business owners to access energy efficiency professionals and complete building upgrades while supporting a growing energy improvement workforce. Partners are using a variety of innovative approaches to deliver the message to consumers that energy efficiency improvements can make their buildings more comfortable while saving them money.

## Making Progress

Thousands of building efficiency upgrades have already been completed through the Better Buildings Neighborhood Program, and that’s just the beginning. By late 2013, Better Buildings neighborhoods are expected to:

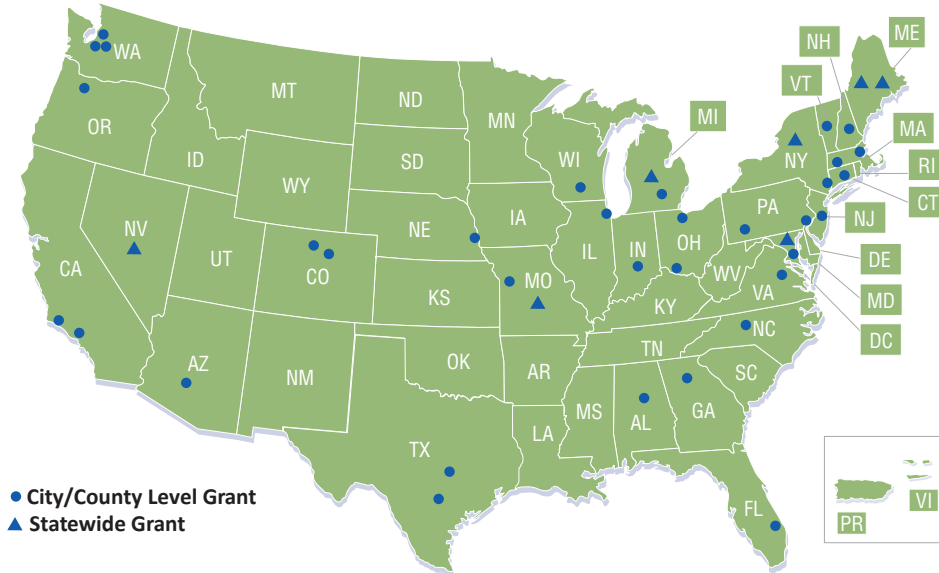
- Conduct energy efficiency improvements in more than 100,000 buildings
- Engage 10,000 to 30,000 energy efficiency professionals
- Achieve 15–30% energy savings per upgraded building
- Save Americans approximately \$65 million annually on their energy bills

## Building a Brighter Future

The average American household spends nearly \$2,000 per year on energy used in the home, but \$200 to \$400 of that could be going to waste due to drafts, air leaks around openings, and outdated heating and cooling systems. By making upgrades that improve a home’s heating, cooling, and air quality, families can reduce their annual energy use, save money, and make their homes more comfortable.



## The Better Buildings Neighborhood Program's Impact Across the United States



**41 partners**  
across the country are supporting  
hundreds of Better Buildings  
neighborhoods.

Better Buildings	Better Workforce	Better Neighborhoods
<p>Home and business owners are learning how their homes and businesses can be more energy efficient, safe, and comfortable through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Enhanced insulation</li> <li>■ Air sealing</li> <li>■ Duct sealing</li> <li>■ Heating and cooling system upgrades</li> <li>■ Lighting improvements</li> <li>■ Home energy monitors</li> </ul>	<p>Better Buildings will help support the energy improvement workforce by engaging 10,000 to 30,000 energy efficiency professionals through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Building science training</li> <li>■ Business development support</li> <li>■ Building performance certifications</li> <li>■ Increased demand for energy upgrade services</li> </ul>	<p>Better Buildings partners are improving the lives of home and business owners in their neighborhoods by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Making energy evaluations more accessible</li> <li>■ Providing access to high quality service providers</li> <li>■ Offering affordable financing options</li> <li>■ Educating community members on the value of saving energy in their homes or businesses</li> </ul>

Better Buildings is supporting job growth by promoting energy efficiency upgrades in all types of buildings, including homes, commercial buildings, schools, and hospitals. Using federal funding and local resources, Better Buildings is helping to provide hundreds of neighborhoods across the country with easy access to cost-effective energy efficiency improvements.

### Connect With Your Local Better Buildings Program

Are you ready to learn how Better Buildings can help you? Visit [betterbuildings.energy.gov/neighborhoods](https://betterbuildings.energy.gov/neighborhoods) to find a Better Buildings program near you. If your home or business could benefit from an energy upgrade, take the first step and request a home energy evaluation from your local Better Buildings program. An energy evaluation will identify the next steps for saving energy and provide recommendations for improving the comfort and value of your home or business, including costs and options for financing them. These energy efficiency upgrades might include adding insulation, sealing cracks, investing in more efficient windows, and improving your heating or cooling systems—all improvements that will increase the comfort and value of your home or business.



#### Contact

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