

## Partnerships and Technical Assistance

### Overview

Energy efficiency and renewable energy are a win-win for states, local governments, and K-12 schools. Energy infrastructure investments create vibrant and healthy communities and provide a secure, reliable source of energy for homes and businesses. As centers for American competitiveness, state and local governments are valued partners to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). Their energy innovations help power the nation's economy. The mission of the **Weatherization and Intergovernmental Programs Office (WIP)** is to enable strategic investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies through the use of innovative practices across the United States in partnership with a wide range of stakeholders, including state and local organizations and community-based nonprofits. WIP supports DOE's strategic objective to lower energy bills while expanding cost-effective energy choices for all Americans. As part of WIP, the **Partnerships and Technical Assistance Team (P&TA)** serves at the nexus of state and local governments to catalyze lead-by-example programs by:

- Developing tools and solutions to barriers facing state and local governments
- Convening and creating peer exchanges to showcase public-sector leadership and effective public-private partnerships
- Providing information from leading technical experts.

### Supporting State and Local Governments with Their Energy Priorities:

P&TA supports the energy priorities of state and local governments to save taxpayer dollars, make full use of domestic energy resources, cut energy waste, improve energy independence and security, and further the development of energy infrastructure. P&TA provides technical assistance to help state and local governments:



**Develop Plans and Programs**



**Empower Organizations**



**Establish Financing**



**Implement Data Management**

### Strengthening American Communities

Within DOE, P&TA leads strategic initiatives to replicate the successful models of public-sector leaders to maximize energy and cost savings across the nation. For example, the Better Buildings Challenge aims to help Americans reduce the energy burden of commercial, institutional, and multi-family buildings and industrial plants by achieving 20% energy savings in 10 years or less. P&TA leads more than 75 public-sector partners across six states, 44 local governments, and 29 K-12 school districts. Partners overcome market barriers to energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies by sharing best practices, facilitating peer exchange, and accessing technical assistance resources.

**The Sustainable Wastewater Infrastructure of the Future (SWIFT) Accelerator** works with water resource recovery facilities to accelerate a pathway toward sustainable infrastructure. During Phase 1, over 70 facility partners reduced their total energy consumption by almost 7% in three years and established plans to achieve 30% facility-wide energy savings by 2021 using the Wastewater Energy Management Toolkit. Phase 2 will continue this momentum by engaging 100 additional facilities to achieve 5% short-term and 25% long-term facility-wide cumulative energy savings, and partnering with 25 facilities to implement at least one next-generation technology (e.g., renewable energy, resource recovery, and advanced data management).

**The Sustainable Corrections Infrastructure Partnership (SCIP) Accelerator** is working with federal and state agencies for three years toward portfolio-wide energy savings of 20% and collective cost savings of more than \$250 million a year. Accelerator partners will demonstrate solutions leveraging energy and water efficiency, renewable energy, and storage technologies to reduce operating and maintenance costs in public correctional facilities.

P&TA also provides technical assistance resources to help public-sector stakeholders achieve energy efficiency success. For example, P&TA developed several resources on resilience in the public sector and the energy technologies that can help make a community more resilient.

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## Saving Taxpayers Energy and Money

The Energy Savings Performance Contracting (ESPC) Accelerator achieved public-sector energy efficiency investments of more than \$2 billion in three years. DOE worked with 25 partners, including 18 states, six cities, and one school district to streamline the ESPC process, empower the market with project data, and resolve individual barriers to these contracts. Solutions to common ESPC barriers from the ESPC Accelerator and other P&TA ESPC technical assistance resources are available on the Better Buildings Solution Center in the ESPC Toolkit, including several resources on proper measurement and verification. Since the ESPC Accelerator, P&TA has continued to support public-sector ESPC success by partnering with the Federal Energy Management Program on establishing the Performance Contracting National Resource Center (PCNRC).

The Outdoor Lighting Accelerator (OLA) facilitated commitments to upgrade 1.3 million street lights that will save partners an estimated \$48 million annually. OLA worked with 25 partners, including three states, 16 cities, and six regional energy networks. High-performance outdoor lighting best practices are available in the Outdoor Lighting Toolkit on the Better Buildings Solution Center.

Through public-private financing partnerships that extend the impact of otherwise limited public budgets, communities have upgraded aging infrastructure, created healthier schools, and saved homeowners money. For example, in response to increasing public-sector interest in **Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE)**, P&TA established the C-PACE Working Group, a cohort of state and local governments working together to learn about, launch, and refine C-PACE financing programs. The goal of these efforts is to stimulate \$60 million in C-PACE investments by 2022.

The **State Energy Program (SEP)** also enhances energy security and maximizes the benefits of energy efficiency. P&TA collaborates with SEP by providing technical advisement on SEP financial awards and disseminates successful model solutions, such as:

- Mississippi used a centralized database to benchmark state buildings' energy use. The new tracking measures helped the state implement effective plans to reduce energy consumption and execute energy upgrades.
- Texas developed their Distributed Generation Interconnection Tool to address barriers to large-scale combined heat and power technology adoption.
- Washington created and implemented a Clean Energy Roadmap to promote clean technology adoption by strengthening the relationship between the public and private sectors.

## WHAT ARE THE RESULTS SO FAR?

Public-Sector Better Building Challenge Partners  
Are Having a Tremendous Impact:



Energy Saved  
**83 TRILLION  
BTUS**



Dollars Saved  
**\$790  
MILLION**



Water Saved  
**1.8 BILLION  
GALLONS**

*Cumulative results since the launch of BBC in 2011, as of 2019 data*

## Sharing Best Practices

State and local governments can contribute a wealth of relevant energy efficiency and renewable energy information. P&TA provides many ways to stay connected with states, local governments, and K-12 school districts and share best practices:

- **State and Local Solution Center** is a one-stop shop of impactful public-sector resources
- **State and Local Spotlight** is WIP's monthly newsletter for state, local, and K-12 officials that provides updates on relevant news, resources, and events for over 34,000 subscribers
- **State and Local Inbox** is WIP's Q&A email inbox to provide information about available resources to state, local government, and K-12 school district stakeholders: [stateandlocal@ee.doe.gov](mailto:stateandlocal@ee.doe.gov)
- Public-sector partners receive recognition at the annual **Better Buildings Summit** of stakeholders across key sectors, including typically ~100 state and local government leaders
- **Better Buildings Solution Center** contains solutions shared by Better Buildings partners that bolster bottom lines, advance technology innovation, create jobs, and spur energy efficiency investments
- **Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Resources for State and Local Leaders** compiles the top DOE technical assistance resources available to states, local governments, and K-12 school districts. ■

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& RENEWABLE ENERGY**

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