

A ZNE building produces as much energy as it consumes over the course of a year

Advancing ZNE policy means advancing economic development, energy leadership, ingenuity and resilience. Planning for a ZNE future creates practical and achievable energy solutions for residents, and economic and environmental benefits for a city itself.

ZNE Policy Provides Multiple Benefits

Jobs, Skills & Economic Development

- Local jobs and tax growth from more local construction
- Higher quality building stock that helps property values
 - Skill development and career opportunities for residents
 - Attract companies that provide ZNE-related products and services
 - Create opportunities for a thriving clean energy industry with products that can be exported worldwide

Energy Independence & Local Resiliency

- Meet energy needs locally, achieve reach codes and sustainability goals
- Local communities become stronger and more resilient during severe weather events and natural disasters

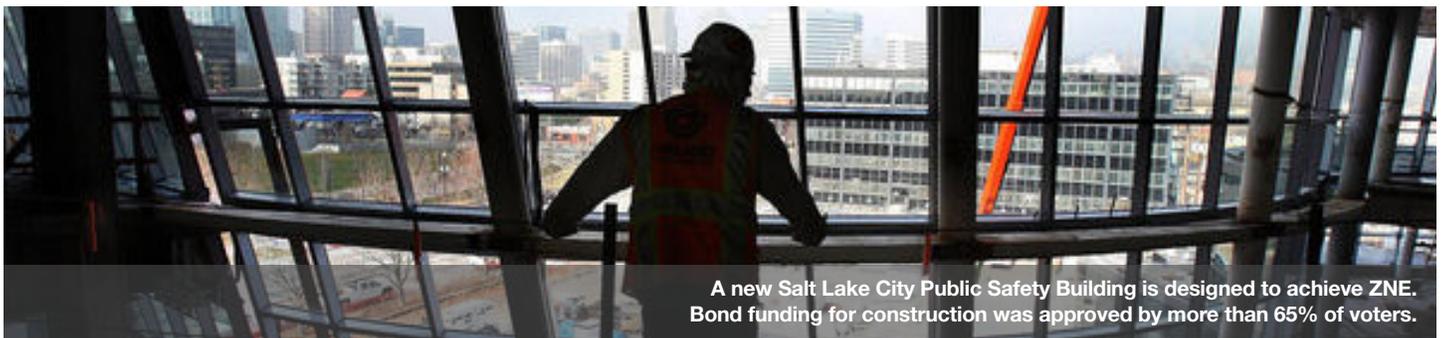
- Increased stability of budgets and protection from uncertainty of changing energy costs.

Health & Productivity

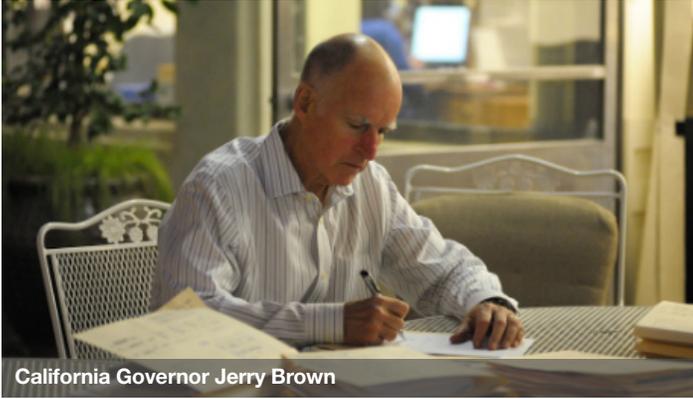
- Support healthier environments and higher productivity with reduced net monthly costs
- Create schools and public buildings with lower operating costs allowing the savings to be used for needed services and programs

States, cities and municipalities across the country are integrating zero net energy building into energy policies, codes and standards.

Policymakers are using ZNE as a way to bring public buildings into the 21st century and put money back into classrooms.



A new Salt Lake City Public Safety Building is designed to achieve ZNE. Bond funding for construction was approved by more than 65% of voters.



California Governor Jerry Brown

Setting Big Bold Goals for ZNE

The energy used in buildings accounts for the second largest contribution to California's greenhouse gas emissions. The California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 requires the State to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020 and beyond. To address these climate and energy-related issues, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) adopted the California Energy Efficiency Strategic Plan in 2008 which sets ambitious goals to achieve zero net energy buildings, including:

- All new residential shall be ZNE by 2020
- 50% of existing commercial shall be ZNE by 2030
- All new commercial shall be ZNE by 2030

Governor Jerry Brown led by example when he signed an executive order (B-18-12) requiring State buildings to reduce consumption and meet the [following] ZNE targets:

- 50% of new State buildings shall be ZNE by 2020
- All new State buildings shall be ZNE by 2025

How is California Working to Achieve ZNE?

The California Public Utilities Commission has been working with interested stakeholders to develop ZNE Action Plans for commercial and residential buildings, codes and standards, and research and technology. These plans have helped engage regulators, building designers, energy efficiency experts, environmental nonprofits, and other leaders to

How Can Local Governments Help Move Buildings to ZNE?

- 1 Establish data policies for annual benchmarking and disclosure policies, and aggregate energy use data to set local energy reduction targets.
- 2 Set local ZNE goals for your municipality or region (including government and other public buildings).
- 3 Create incentives for ZNE (e.g. funding, fast-track permitting, technical assistance, awards, etc.).
- 4 Educate planning, development and sustainability staff about ZNE and available incentive programs.
- 5 Adopt the CalGreen energy code and align local codes to remove any barriers to ZNE.
- 6 Create training for building departments and alignment of planning, urban design and zoning.
- 7 Provide ZNE resources, trainings and other assistance for designers, builders, and contractors.

advance policy approaches and develop tools. These leaders have also helped clarify definitional issues, advance critical policy, identify technology gaps, and create a Path to Zero outreach and education campaign.

Resources for more information:

New Buildings Institute ZNE Resources
<http://newbuildings.org/zero-net-energy-resources>