

# GETTING TO **zero** FORUM 2021

March 15-17, 2021

## New York City

HOSTED BY:

**nbi** new buildings  
institute



The 2021 **Getting to Zero Forum** aims to accelerate action by state and local governments and building industry professionals to boost economic growth and achieve the energy and climate goals in the Paris Agreement.

Zero energy and zero carbon buildings are critical to achieving the commitments made at the Global Climate Action Summit. We cannot meet climate goals without eliminating carbon from our new and existing buildings. The rapidly growing green building market is ready to support those commitments. We must, in the next few years, find solutions that will remove barriers and accelerate the industry.

Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) and New Buildings Institute (NBI) have long been at the center of the zero energy and zero carbon building movement. Both organizations engage leading experts, policy makers, and developers to overcome the remaining barriers to making zero carbon buildings the norm. This year, the New York State Energy Research & Development Authority (NYSERDA) is working with NBI and RMI to host the Forum in New York City.

The time to focus the industry on developing and implementing key solutions for rapid expansion is now. By engaging key leaders, we can develop the next breakthrough solutions and deploy them. We are catalyzing that work by organizing the industry around The Getting to Zero Forum, scheduled for March 15-17, 2021, and using the Forum to drive ongoing collective impact.

It is the only event with a broad cross section of stakeholders focused on ambitious building efficiency goals and is an ideal venue for organizing both the policy and building communities to achieve zero carbon ambitions.

### Our Program

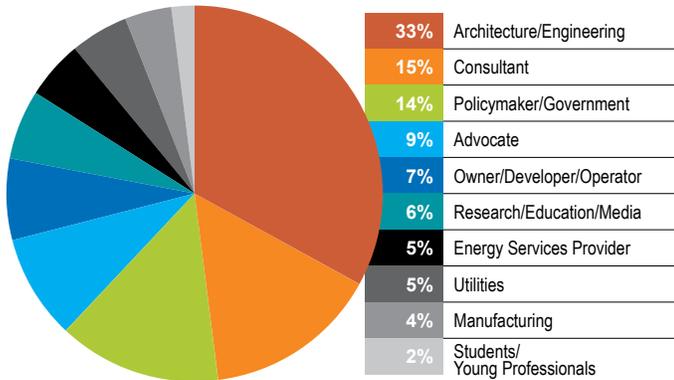
The Getting to Zero Forum is designed to accelerate and broaden efforts to deliver zero energy and zero carbon buildings at scale, and to help policy makers achieve their climate commitments within the built environment.

Now in its fifth edition, the Forum is the premier event dedicated to zero energy buildings. It attracts more than 800 leading policy makers, design professionals, building owners, systems manufacturers, and commercial real estate experts.

Throughout 2020, we will be working to harness the collective power of these professionals to improve the market. The Forum will be the culminating event of this effort in March 2021. The Forum will provide space for collaboration around specific solutions and align the industry around commitments for action. This work will specifically focus on eliminating barriers around deep energy retrofits, zero energy, electrification, grid-interactive buildings, and policy and finance solutions.

## Who Attends?

More than 800 international experts in zero energy and zero carbon buildings are expected to attend the Forum. These industry leaders create the market-based solutions that drive the future of the built environment:



## The Work

Below is a brief summary of the work related to the Forum aimed at transforming the industry:

- **Engage industry leaders** to identify the primary barriers facing full market adoption of zero carbon building and retrofits;
- **Clarify the immediate needs** in the industry to catalyze rapid expansion;
- **Develop actionable solutions** for the year ahead with industry experts and practitioners;
- **Secure commitments** to advance solutions;
- **Influence the broader market** to adopt those solutions; and
- **Create accountability** through ongoing engagement and regular in-person interaction at the Getting to Zero Forum.

### About New Buildings Institute

New Buildings Institute (NBI) is a non-profit organization driving better energy performance in commercial buildings. NBI's mission is to push for better buildings that achieve zero energy, zero carbon, and beyond – through research, policy, guidance, and market transformation – to protect the health of people and the planet. Throughout its more than 20-year history, NBI has become a trusted and independent resource. Learn more at [newbuildings.org](http://newbuildings.org).

### About Rocky Mountain Institute

Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI)—an independent nonprofit founded in 1982—transforms global energy use to create a clean, prosperous, and secure low-carbon future. It engages businesses, communities, institutions, and entrepreneurs to accelerate the adoption of market-based solutions that cost-effectively shift from fossil fuels to efficiency and renewables. RMI has offices in Basalt and Boulder, Colorado; New York City; Washington, D.C.; and Beijing.

### About NYSERDA

NYSERDA, a public benefit corporation, offers objective information and analysis, innovative programs, technical expertise, and funding to help New Yorkers increase energy efficiency, save money, use renewable energy, and reduce reliance on fossil fuels. NYSERDA professionals work to protect the environment and create clean-energy jobs. NYSERDA has been developing partnerships to advance innovative energy solutions in New York State since 1975.

## Catalyzing Action

Past editions of the Getting To Zero Forum have brought together key stakeholders and decision makers to spark important leaps forward in building codes and policies and collaboration for zero energy and zero carbon buildings leadership:

- NBI held the 2018 Forum in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, sparking city government engagement in ZE/ZC buildings. In 2019, the City pledged to make all new and renovated municipal buildings net zero in 2020.
- A collaborative team of jurisdictions' staff formed the DMV (D.C., Maryland and Virginia) Net Zero Energy Coalition to drive the National Capitol region's government buildings to zero energy and zero carbon, a concept the participants formed while at the Forum.

## Maximizing Knowledge

Through facilitated information exchange, attendees can capitalize on opportunities to learn from experts in the field about what is working and share their experience and knowledge with the broader industry. Forum opportunities include:

**Access to Actionable Solutions.** Attendees learn about new tools, technical expertise, and practical applications to advance zero energy and zero carbon programs.

**Policy Pathways to Zero.** The latest zero energy and zero carbon policy models being tested by states and cities around the world are discussed.

**Relationship Building + Increasing Investments.** Attendees have access to other leaders and visionaries to build new business opportunities or partnerships and strategically influence the clean energy economy.