



Zero Energy Programs Working Group



Center for Sustainable Landscapes, credit: Paul G. Wiegman

Grow your organization's zero energy buildings programs and offerings for the commercial and multifamily sectors

The American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE) and New Buildings Institute (NBI) operate a working group for utilities and other energy efficiency program administrators to support the creation and expansion of zero energy building utility incentive programs. The group discusses lessons learned and best practices for promoting zero energy design and construction to customers. Launched in late 2020, the working group will assist program administrators to substantially increase zero energy building program activity in the next three years.

About the Working Group:

The Zero Energy Programs Working Group consists of representatives from utilities and other program administrators that are actively considering or currently implementing zero energy commercial and multifamily building pilots or programs. The group functions as both a peer-to-peer network for information exchange as well as strategic advisors for ACEEE and NBI's ongoing research into program best practices. ACEEE and NBI deliver additional resources to address challenges identified by the group and, in some cases, provide one-on-one technical assistance to working group members.

What to Expect as a Member:

ACEEE and NBI convene regular videoconferences about every six weeks. These 90-minute facilitated meetings feature experts from the utility and regulatory communities and allow members to share their progress and exchange ideas. Members can survey the working group on program-related questions for peer-to-peer learning, connect with ACEEE and NBI expert staff for additional technical assistance, and much more.

Why support the Working Group?

"Sharing learnings and insights with utility peers inspires us to try new approaches in our own zero energy building program." -**Tori Scarzello, Efficiency Vermont**

"National Grid is excited to have the opportunity to share our experience and learn from others as we continue to refine the Mass Save Zero Net Energy program. The peer-to-peer structure combined with expert guests furthers our efforts to see more zero net energy buildings in our region and beyond." -**Denise Rouleau, National Grid**

"Learning from other utilities that are addressing the same zero energy building topics gives us a fresh take on the opportunities in front of us." -**Clay Monroe, Rocky Mountain Power**

"The Zero Energy Programs Working Group's collaborative discussions about trends in zero energy incentive programs helps us address program design and implementation challenges." -**Jay Olson, Energy Trust of Oregon**

Suggested Annual Support Levels for Working Group Participant Organizations:

- \$10,000/year: fewer than 500,000 customers
- \$15,000/year: 500,000+ customers

Additional technical assistance and customized guidance documents are available upon request for organizations providing financial support to the Working Group.

Learn more at gettingtozeroforum.org/ze-utility-working-group/

Participants benefit from:

- Peer-to-peer learning from other program administrators.
- Guest speakers on best practices, leading zero energy building programs, and other topics of group interest.
- Opportunity to pose questions to group members, share learnings from program successes, and suggest topics for future discussion/research.
- Tailored research and resources (using extensive resource libraries from [NBI](#) and [ACEEE](#)) to help members address program design and implementation challenges with customers.
- In-person gatherings at key efficiency-related conferences and workshops such as NBI's Getting to Zero Forum and ACEEE's Summer Study on Energy Efficiency in Buildings.
- Opportunities to highlight achievements through ACEEE and NBI conferences, reports, or blog posts.

Participants contribute to the group by:

- Actively considering, developing, or administering zero energy building programs and being willing to share their experiences with group members.
- Regularly attending working group conference calls, participating in a survey on next steps, and responding to peer-to-peer learning questions with lessons learned from program development and implementation.
- Providing financial support to the nonprofit leaders of the working group, if utility partner budgets allow.

Learn More and Join:

To join the Working Group, provide financial support to NBI and ACEEE's organizational work, or learn more, please contact one of the project managers:

- Webly Bowles, NBI, webly@newbuildings.org
- Rohini Srivastava, ACEEE, rsrivastava@aceee.org



Boulder Commons, credit: Rocky Mountain Institute

About New Buildings Institute

New Buildings Institute (NBI) is a nonprofit organization that pushes 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.

nbi new buildings
institute

About American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy

ACEEE is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization that acts as a catalyst to advance energy efficiency policies, programs, technologies, investments, and behaviors. We aim to build a vibrant and equitable economy – one that uses energy more productively, reduces costs, protects the environment, and promotes the health, safety, and well-being of everyone. Learn more at aceee.org.

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