



Program Guide

MAY 2022

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

Welcome to the U.S. Department of Energy’s (DOE) [Better Climate Challenge](#). We are excited to be working in partnership with your organization to reduce GHG emissions and sharing replicable pathways to decarbonization. As a partner, your organization has committed to an ambitious, portfolio-wide Scope 1 and 2 greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction goal of at least 50% over 10 years across your U.S. operations to showcase how you are taking measurable steps to address climate change.

Partners help pave the way for others by accelerating energy efficiency and other clean energy investments, reporting on progress, and sharing their plans and solutions for meeting their ambitious goals. DOE supports this transformative market leadership program by providing technical assistance, facilitating peer-to-peer learning opportunities, sharing the work of leaders, and highlighting real-world replicable solutions.

Thank you for participating in this important national leadership initiative, for your GHG emissions reduction commitment, and for creating and sharing solutions to persistent energy and GHG reduction challenges.

You can use this guide as an easy reference to review the program milestones and key dates, learn about how you will collaborate with DOE and other partners, get an introduction to the annual reporting process, and learn about recognition opportunities.

Contents

Partner Milestones..... 2

Collaborating with DOE and Other Partners 3

Emissions and Energy Data 4

Communicating Your Leadership 6

Recognition 8

Getting Involved..... 9

Contact your Account Manager for the following documents:

- ▶ Website Profile Template
- ▶ Showcase Project Template
- ▶ Implementation Model Template
- ▶ Emissions Data Tracking Manual for Better Climate Challenge Partners (coming soon)

Partner Milestones

Through the Better Climate Challenge, DOE is challenging organizations to demonstrate how leaders are taking measurable steps to address climate change by setting operational greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions goals that are:

- ▶ Ambitious
- ▶ Portfolio-wide
- ▶ Near-term

To track and recognize these commitments, DOE asks partners to reach specific milestones within the first two years of joining the Better Climate Challenge. In the spirit of an ongoing partnership, DOE will work with you and review your progress during regular check-ins throughout the year.

Figure 1: Better Climate Challenge Milestones

Timeline	Milestones	How
Start	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Join Better Climate Challenge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Senior Executive signs and submits Partnership Agreement
Within 1 Month	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Assign senior leader and primary point of contact ▶ Submit profile information for program website ▶ Participate in a Welcome Call 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Submit contact information to Better Climate Challenge program team ▶ Fill out website profile template ▶ Provide availability or share calendar with program team for welcome call and quarterly check-ins
Within 1 Year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Join a Better Climate Challenge working group ▶ Share and review current GHG reduction efforts with DOE and determine needs/ interest in technical support ▶ Share base year portfolio-level emissions and energy data by August 1st, 2022, and previous year portfolio-level emissions and energy data by August 1st in subsequent years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Select one or more working groups from a set of options to be provided ▶ Provide materials and updates to inform conversations on quarterly check-ins ▶ Share emissions and energy data through the Better Climate Challenge annual GHG reporting form or ENERGY STAR® Portfolio Manager (see page 4)
Within 2 Years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Share a GHG emissions reduction plan for U.S. operations (or global operations if preferred) with your sector team 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ To be shared in whatever format works best for your organization; templates can be provided upon request and partners are not expected to share plans publicly
Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Stay connected to program resources and recognition opportunities by subscribing to the Better Buildings Bulletin ▶ Participate in working groups and other technical assistance opportunities being explored by DOE (see page 4) ▶ Annually update portfolio-level emissions and energy data by August 1st ▶ Share information about your proven strategies to be featured on the program website by using the solutions templates ▶ Work with DOE to profile your successes through site visits and other opportunities to engage media 	

Collaborating with DOE and Other Partners

Working together is a core component of the Better Climate Challenge. Through the Better Climate Challenge, partners actively participate in working groups with peers and technical experts from DOE, national laboratories, and industry to discuss barriers, exchange best practices, and develop written case studies to share with the marketplace on the Better Buildings Solution Center. This focus on collaboration will foster a diverse network that enables sharing proven solutions and peer exchange opportunities.

First Year Milestones

To help your organization meet its goals, you will soon meet with your program team to confirm your organization's profile page information for publishing on the Better Buildings Solution Center and begin discussing your GHG emissions reduction strategy. For non-industrial partners, your team will include a DOE Sector Lead and an Account Manager, and for the first year of your partnership it will be joined by a technical expert from industry to provide additional assistance. For industrial partners, the team will include a DOE Sector Lead and a Technical Account Manager, serving similar roles.

So that DOE can best assist, you will share progress toward your organization's portfolio-wide GHG reduction strategies with us during quarterly check-in calls in your first year in the program. These check-ins will allow DOE to connect you with support in GHG accounting and guide you to resources, cohort/peer-based technical assistance, and other technical assistance opportunities to address your specific decarbonization barriers.

Upon joining the program, you will be provided with communications materials that can be used to publicize your partnership along with additional program templates and materials. At the end of the first year, if needed, DOE will help you fill out the Better Climate Challenge's data template.

GHG Emissions Reduction Plan

Partners are asked to share their GHG emissions reduction plan with DOE that they will use to achieve their emissions reduction commitments. During quarterly check-in calls, we will discuss the strategies your organization will use and its major initiatives and projects. This information will enable your program team discussed above to connect you with technical resources and peer exchange opportunities (see Working Groups below) that can help you reach your goals.

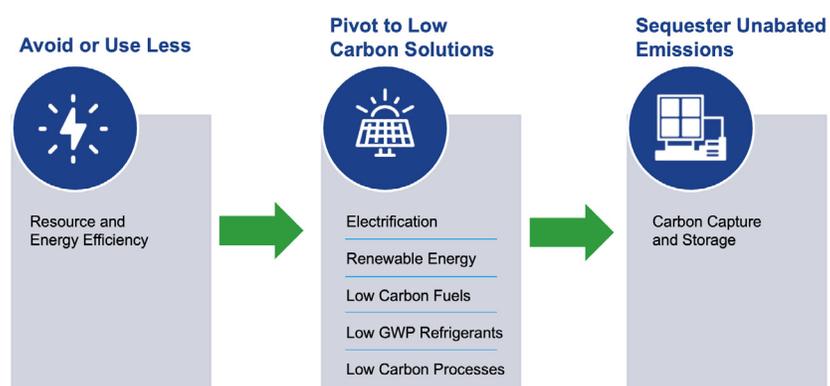
Recommendations

It's recommended that your organization's GHG emissions reduction plan includes the following:

- ▶ Summary of the inventory methodology including defined Scope 1 and 2 emissions source
- ▶ GHG inventory for the base-year
- ▶ A set of preferred strategies for reducing GHG emissions
- ▶ Implementation and management plan including a timeline for activities

We anticipate that the strategies for reducing GHG emissions will align with the decarbonization solutions seen in Figure 2.

Figure 2: Emissions reductions solutions



To develop an effective and actionable plan:

- ▶ Follow steps for strategic emissions reduction planning, including securing the commitment of staff and executives, assessing management practices at an organizational level, assessing portfolio energy/water use, identifying opportunities for savings, and anticipating resource and funding needs to execute the plan.
- ▶ Include internal and external communication strategies to recognize staff contributions, celebrate successes, and encourage sharing new ideas.
- ▶ Incorporate evaluation mechanisms to track implementation and achievements.

Working Groups

Through Better Climate Challenge, DOE helps partners meet their decarbonization goals through valuable peer-to-peer exchange in working groups. Working groups will be supported by a facilitator and technical lead who will bring together resources from DOE and elsewhere to inform and support the group. These groups are designed to drive small group interaction and leverage DOE expertise for partners to have actionable outcomes. Better Climate Challenge working groups are only available to current Better Climate Challenge partners.

Working group topics are determined by the needs of partners, and the initial groups will focus on the following:

- ▶ Portfolio-level GHG emissions reduction planning, to share insights about assessing a portfolio, creating a plan, and taking action
- ▶ Electrification, bringing together partners to discuss obstacles related to electrification and aims to work towards identifying paths forward
- ▶ Other topics may include improving data access and data management, upstream scope 3 emissions tracking, and vehicle/fleet conversions.

We encourage you to share working group topics of interest with your Account Manager.

Emissions and Energy Data

Overview

Partners in the Better Climate Challenge commit to reducing Scope 1 and Scope 2 GHG emissions by at least 50% within 10 years from their join date. When pursuing a GHG emissions reduction plan, DOE is encouraging partners to lead with energy efficiency. As such, you are asked to share an energy efficiency target to demonstrate how you intend to prioritize energy efficiency as part of your organization's emissions reductions pathway. The focus of the Better Climate Challenge is on operational reductions in emissions, and thus offsets are not allowed.

The process used to track progress towards emissions reduction goals is briefly outlined below and will be detailed in a separate data tracking manual. These policies and procedures align with the GHG Protocol to make data reporting as easy as possible.

- ▶ **Defining Challenge Commitment:** Partners commit to reducing the emissions of their US operations and select a program base year no more than five (5) years back from their join date.
- ▶ **How to Report:** Progress towards emissions reduction goals will be tracked by DOE. Partners will provide emissions and energy performance data to DOE in an approved reporting format. Partners have the option to provide data at the portfolio or facility level.
- ▶ **Program Metrics:** Partners are encouraged to establish goals to reduce absolute GHG emissions. Some partners may choose a goal based on emissions intensity reduction (e.g., emissions per square foot), in which case they will need to report both emissions intensity and absolute emissions.

Data to be Collected

Partners submit the following emissions and energy performance data to DOE, which is used to document progress towards achieving emissions reduction goals and to recognize partners' achievements. You may choose to report energy and/or emissions data at the facility level either to obtain assistance in calculating emissions or analyze facility-specific performance for emissions-saving opportunities.

▶ Absolute Emissions (Metric tons CO₂e)

- ▶ Scope 1 Emissions (e.g., fuels, refrigerants) broken out by Stationary, Mobile, Process, and Fugitive
- ▶ Location-based Scope 2 Emissions (e.g., Electricity & District Energy)
- ▶ Market-based Scope 2 Emissions (e.g., Electricity & District Energy)

▶ Total Building or Plant Site Energy

- ▶ Total Electricity (MWh) broken out by Onsite Renewable Energy, Offsite Green Power, and Remaining Grid Electricity
- ▶ Natural Gas, Fuel Oil, Propane, and Other Fuel Types
- ▶ District Steam, District Hot Water, District Chilled Water

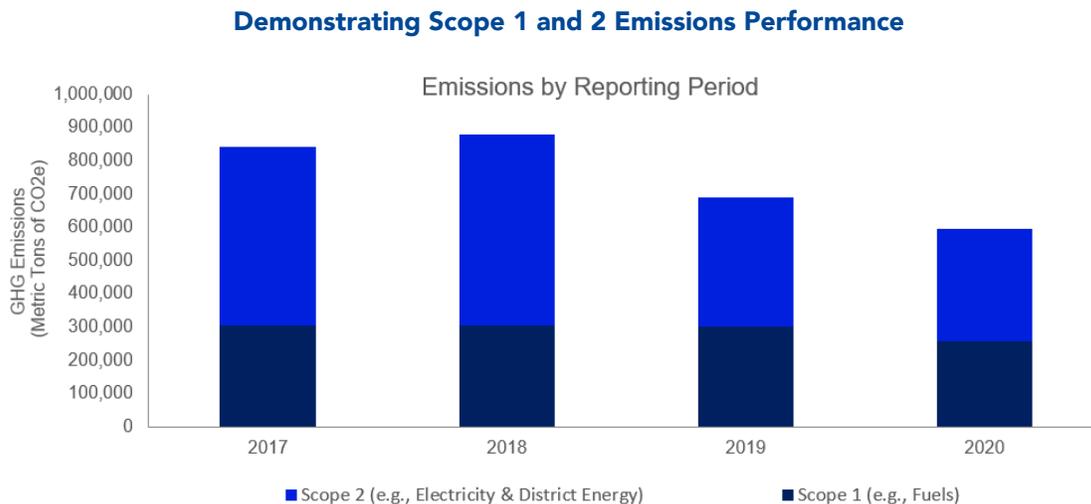
▶ Vehicle Site Energy Use (if applicable)

- ▶ Total Vehicle Electricity (MWh) broken out by Onsite Renewable Energy, Offsite Green Power, and Remaining Grid Electricity
- ▶ Gasoline and Other Fuels

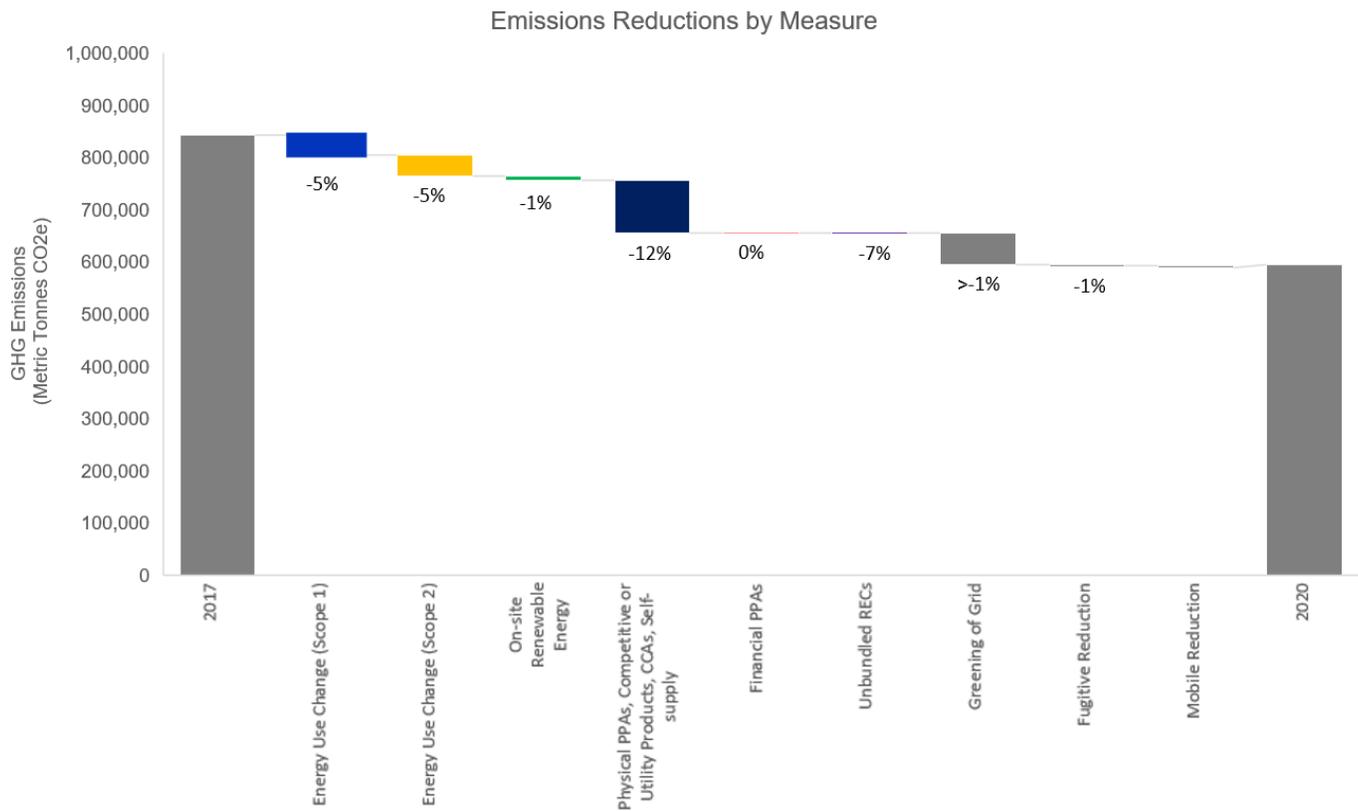
Leased asset emissions can be accounted for in either Scope 1 and 2 or Scope 3, depending on how you set your operational boundary. Organizations including leased assets as Scope 3 can report this to DOE.

Displaying Results

Progress towards goals will be displayed on the Better Buildings Solutions Center and linked to your profile page. In addition to brief descriptive text describing your emissions reduction results, there will be two graphs showing the following:



Demonstrating Proven Pathways for Emissions Reductions



Reporting Timeline

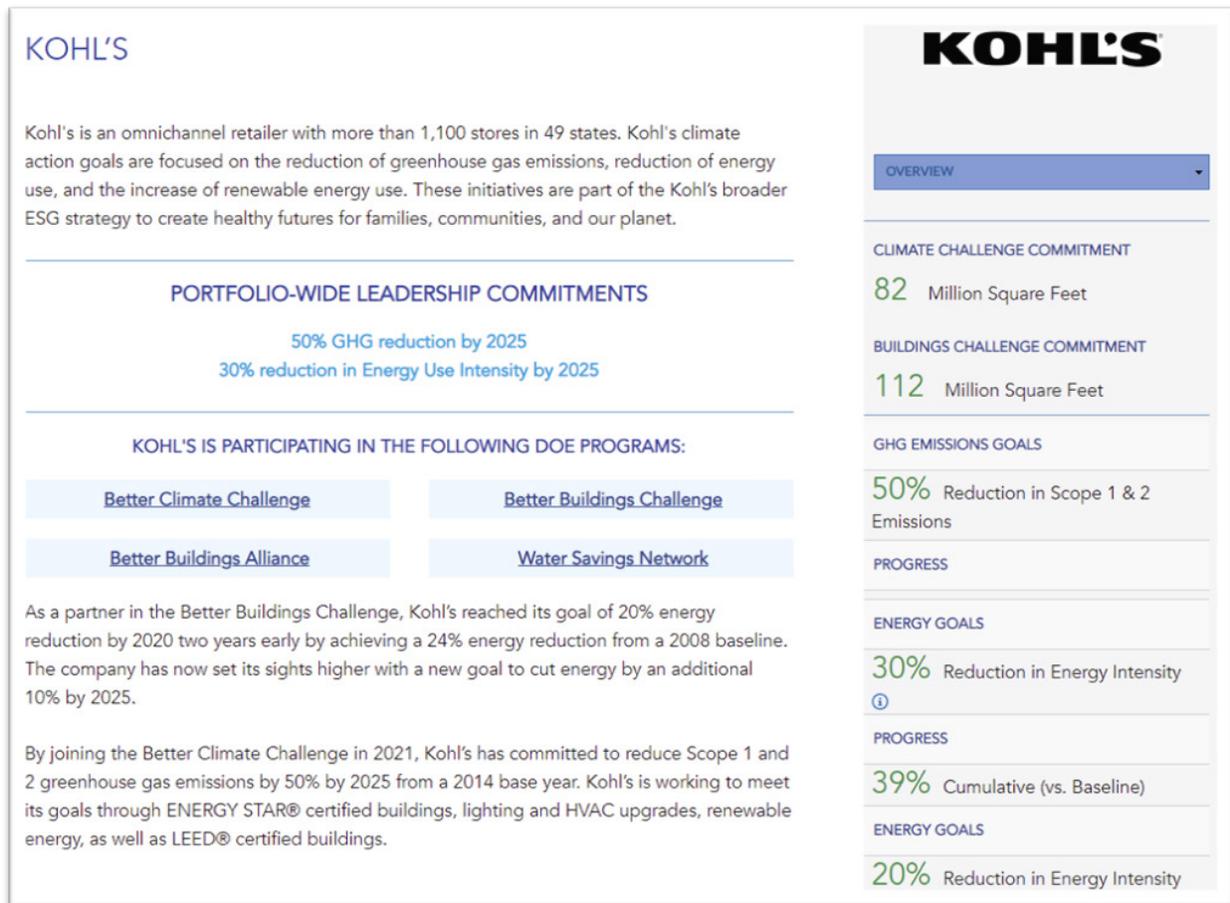
Partners report data on an annual basis for the full 10-year commitment. Partners that meet their goal early will be urged to set a new goal with DOE. DOE asks that you submit the previous year's data by August 1 of each year. Only base year data is expected in 2022, but if you are ready to share 2021 data please do so as well. In subsequent years, portfolio-level emissions and energy data for the previous year should be submitted by August 1st. Those requesting assistance with GHG emissions calculations should submit data by May 1.

Communicating Your Leadership

Website Profile

Your organization will have a profile page on the [Better Buildings Solution Center](https://betterbuildingsolutioncenter.energy.gov). This page highlights your commitment to the Better Climate Challenge, progress towards that commitment, and any published Solutions ([Showcase Projects](#), [Implementation Models](#)) and other case studies or market innovations. If your organization commits to other reduction goals (energy, water, waste), those commitments will be reflected on the profile page as well. The Better Buildings team will provide you with a Website Profile Page Template to collect the necessary profile information. Partners that already have a profile page on the Solution Center will work with their Account Manager to adapt the current profile to incorporate their Better Climate Challenge commitments. Examples of Better Climate Challenge partner pages can be found here: betterbuildingsolutioncenter.energy.gov/partner-list-program

Figure 3: Better Climate Challenge Partner Profile



Promoting Your Partnership

There are many ways to communicate your commitment to leading the way in reducing GHG emissions and your partnership in the Better Climate Challenge. We encourage you to reach out to your local community as well as to employees, customers, and stakeholders about your Better Climate Challenge activities. DOE is committed to sharing your successes through a wide variety of channels including newsletters, emails, social media, and the Beat Blog, as well as other innovative opportunities like our Decarbonization Download vlog series and partner site visits.

Publishing Solutions

Showcase Projects demonstrate that Better Climate Challenge partners are taking immediate, concrete actions resulting in significant savings. Showcases highlight discrete, whole-building projects that are innovative and incorporate multiple emissions reduction measures. These are not intended to be exhaustive case studies that delve into the technical details but are high-level stories capturing the specific steps that led to deep reductions in absolute GHG emissions or emissions intensity. These are not required, but each project provides an opportunity for DOE to recognize partners for their successes. Review existing Better Buildings and Better Plants showcase projects here: [Better Buildings Showcase Projects](#).

Implementation Models are case studies that highlight the development and use of innovative strategies to overcome persistent challenges to GHG emissions reduction. Partners may identify a project or program that resulted in emissions reductions that could serve as a model for peers facing similar barriers. These models should articulate the specific tools, documents, and steps used to achieve success. Review existing Better Buildings and Better Plants implementation models here: [Better Buildings Implementation Models](#).

Recognition

Through the Better Climate Challenge, partners will be publicly recognized for achieving program milestones and GHG emissions reduction results. Partners who leverage, develop, and share innovative and cost-effective GHG emissions reduction implementation strategies can be recognized for their successes through the Better Buildings Solution Center, written case studies, and the annual [Progress Report](#). You will also work with DOE to leverage valuable media opportunities, with the potential to be featured in national, regional, business, and trade media outlets. This positive publicity effectively spreads the word on the innovative ways your organization is achieving its GHG emissions reduction goals. Learn more in the Better Buildings Newsroom.

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- ▶ [Beat Blog](#)
- ▶ [Decarbonization Vlog](#)

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Getting Involved

There are many engagement opportunities to help your organization achieve its goals, overcome persistent barriers, and share best practices with peers.

Attend the Better Buildings, Better Plants Summit

This annual event for partners and other key stakeholders provides the opportunity for professionals to explore emerging technologies and share innovative strategies in decarbonization, energy, waste, and water efficiency. Attendees take part in interactive sessions with industry experts and market leaders as well as multiple opportunities to network with peers. Visit the Better Buildings Summit website to learn more.

Watch Live or Recorded Webinars

The Better Buildings Webinar Series takes on the most pressing topics facing energy professionals, with experts leading the conversations on proven best practices, cost-effective strategies, and innovative new ways to approach sustainability and energy performance. Register today! All webinars are archived in the On-Demand Webinars Library.

Take Another Step in your Sustainability Strategy with Peer Networks

Water

Prioritizing water efficiency is a necessary response to the risks of climate change, particularly in water-stressed regions. The efficient use of water saves both money and energy while improving resilience. Through the Better Buildings Water Savings Network, DOE brings organizations together to discuss and demonstrate successful approaches to conserving water in buildings, plants, and multifamily housing. Learn more about the Better Buildings Water Savings Network.

Waste

Annually, the U.S. generates 2.7 billion tons of industrial solid waste and more than 290 million tons of municipal solid waste. By reducing waste, organizations may also save energy. Manufacturers, companies, schools, and governments across the country can strengthen their competitiveness and sustainability by setting and realizing robust waste reduction goals. Learn more about the Better Buildings Waste Reduction Network.



On behalf of Multifamily Sector partners, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) works with DOE to support this transformative market leadership program through technical assistance, facilitating peer-to-peer learning opportunities, sharing the work of leaders, and highlighting real-world replicable solutions.



The United States and the world face a profound climate crisis. To mitigate the impacts of climate change while creating jobs and strengthening the clean energy economy, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is challenging organizations to set ambitious, portfolio-wide, and near-term operational greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction goals to showcase how they as leaders are taking measurable steps to address climate change.

What is the Better Climate Challenge?

The Better Climate Challenge is a voluntary, market-based platform for organizations to set ambitious, portfolio-wide, operational GHG emissions reduction goals and showcase how they are taking steps to address climate change.

More specifically, partnering organizations commit to reducing their [scope 1 and 2 GHG emissions](#) by at least 50% within 10 years. Partners also set an energy efficiency target as well, typically 20%.

By accelerating energy efficiency and other clean energy investments, reporting on progress, and sharing their plans and solutions for meeting their ambitious goals, partners help pave the way for others.

DOE will support this transformative market leadership program through technical assistance, facilitating peer-to-peer learning opportunities, sharing the work of leaders, and highlighting real-world replicable solutions.

What Kind of Organizations Can Join?

Any organization with a portfolio of buildings/plants/housing in the U.S. is welcome to join. Through this Challenge, DOE is striving to work with organizations across the U.S. economy to ensure broad participation and highlight leadership from a diverse array of public and private organizations across geographies.

What About My Organization's Other Goals and Commitments?

Any organization willing to set a portfolio wide goal of at least 50% emissions reduction over 10 years is welcome to join the Better Climate Challenge.

This Challenge is intended to complement existing goals and commitments while adding value through a national platform for peer-to-peer learning, development of real-world pathways, and technical assistance from DOE.

Organizations that have established other similarly aligned commitments are encouraged to reach out to DOE to discuss how they can participate. For example, DOE will accept pre-established goals from organizations with an approved 1.5° Celsius aligned science-based target, on a case-by-case basis.

Why Should Organizations Join?

Through the Better Climate Challenge, DOE provides a national platform for organizations to make public commitments, share replicable solutions, leverage technical expertise, and gain recognition. The program builds upon the success of the Better Buildings, Better Plants Challenge and provides value to partnering organizations in the following ways:

Engage in Market Transformation with Elite Leaders

- ▶ More than 950 organizations partner with DOE in the Better Buildings Initiative and represent market leaders in nearly every sector, including industrial, commercial, public, education, multifamily, and residential.
- ▶ Partnering organizations can access this network of technical and industry experts to develop innovative cost-effective GHG reduction solutions.

Peer-to-Peer Exchange and Technical Assistance Network

- ▶ Access technical assistance through DOE's national labs.
- ▶ Peer-exchange opportunities to learn and share real-world challenges and solutions through webinars, conferences, regional meetups, and other events.

Recognition

- ▶ National recognition for achieving program milestones and GHG emissions reduction results.

What Does an Organization Commit to?

Partnering organizations agree to:

Commit

- ▶ Publicly pledge to reduce GHG emissions across their U.S. building or plant portfolio by at least 50% over 10-years without the use of offsets.
- ▶ Pursue an energy efficiency target to demonstrate how their organization is prioritizing energy efficiency as a decarbonization strategy

Share

- ▶ Develop an organization-wide plan with GHG emissions reduction milestones.
- ▶ Participate in at least one working group to discuss barriers, exchange best practices, and identify solutions.

Report Results

- ▶ Make available portfolio-wide energy performance and scope 1 and 2 emissions data through ENERGY STAR® Portfolio Manager® and/or a data collection spreadsheet.
- ▶ Report data annually for the duration of the 10-year challenge.

What does DOE Commit to?

Assist

- ▶ Provide technical assistance and decarbonization implementation strategies to support partners' commitment to measure, track, and improve portfolio-wide GHG emissions performance.
- ▶ Collaborate with partner on a regular basis.

Connect

- ▶ Collect and share best practices and highlight options that have been used to measure and reduce operational GHG emissions.
- ▶ Facilitate peer-to-peer learning opportunities among partners and convene working groups to discuss barriers and identify solutions.

Recognize Success

- ▶ Provide national recognition for achieving program milestones and GHG emissions reductions
- ▶ Recognize partners that share innovative and cost-effective GHG reduction implementation strategies.

How Can My Organization Join?

Existing Better Buildings and Better Plants partners can email their program contact(s), indicating interest in joining the GHG challenge.

Organizations can also email betterbuildings@ee.doe.gov if they are interested in joining.

What is the Better Climate Challenge? Why is it Important?

Through the Better Climate Challenge, DOE is working with leading organizations, across the US economy, to set ambitious, portfolio-wide, and near-term operational greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction goals and to demonstrate how leaders are measurably taking steps to address climate change.

Leadership, action, and a commitment to share replicable pathways are critical to address the challenge of climate change. This public-private partnership is a national platform to provide transparency, technical assistance, and collaboration to identify decarbonization pathways to accelerate America's future towards a clean energy economy.

What kind of organizations can join?

Any organization with a portfolio of buildings/plants/housing in the United States is welcome to join. Through the Better Buildings Initiative, DOE has worked across the US economy to highlight leadership for more than a decade. Despite their different sizes, locations, ownership structure and building end uses. Organizations that partner with DOE in these efforts are united by their willingness to set an ambitious goal, share the work they are doing and help lead the way.

Why should my organization join?

Through the Better Climate Challenge, organizations join a network of market leaders that are stepping forward to work with DOE to plan for future success for their organization by reducing GHG emissions and sharing replicable pathways to decarbonization. Partnering organizations will save energy and money and be leaders in their local communities. Partners can tap into the Better Buildings network, engage with other market leaders, access peer-to-peer exchange opportunities, and leverage technical assistance from DOE and the national labs. Partners will also receive national recognition for their GHG emission reductions achievements.

What is the GHG emissions reduction commitment?

Partnering organizations commit to reduce their scope 1 and 2 greenhouse gas emissions by at least 50% within 10 years by accelerating energy efficiency and other clean energy investments, reporting on progress, and sharing their plans and solutions for meeting their ambitious goals. DOE will provide technical expertise, convening of peers, and a platform for leading organizations to showcase solutions.

What does an organization commit to?

Organizations commit to:

- ▶ Reduce GHG emissions across their U.S. building or plant portfolio by at least 50% over 10 years. To be a goal achiever, organizations must meet the 50% reduction target without using GHG offsets.
- ▶ Pursue an energy efficiency target to demonstrate how their organization is prioritizing building performance as a decarbonization strategy.
- ▶ Participate in at least one working group to discuss barriers, exchange best practices, and identify solutions.
- ▶ Develop an organization-wide plan with GHG emissions reduction milestones.
- ▶ Share portfolio-wide energy performance and scope 1 and 2 emissions data for the duration of the 10-year goal timeframe.

How will DOE work with partnering organizations?

DOE will support partners in the following ways:

- ▶ Provide technical assistance and support partners' commitment to measure, track, and improve portfolio wide GHG performance.
- ▶ Collect and share best practices and highlight options that have been used to measure and reduce operational GHG emissions.
- ▶ Facilitate peer-to-peer learning among partners and convene working groups to discuss barriers and identify solutions.
- ▶ Provide national recognition for achieving program milestones and GHG emissions reductions.

How does an organization join the Better Climate Challenge?

Organizations will sign a Partnership Agreement form with DOE outlining their commitment towards this voluntary partnership effort.

Existing Better Buildings partners can email their program contact indicating interest in joining the Better Climate Challenge.

Other organizations can contact betterbuildings@ee.doe.gov with details about their portfolio of buildings or plants.

How does the Better Climate Challenge fit into the existing Better Buildings Initiative?

The Better Climate Challenge is DOE's newest opportunity for organizations to establish broad national goals to advance energy efficiency, progress towards a clean energy economy, and tackle decarbonization challenges.

Through the Better Buildings Initiative, nearly 1,000 private and public sector organizations have partnered with DOE collectively saving more than 2.2 quadrillion British Thermal Units (QBtu) of energy resulting in savings of more than \$13 billion and 130 million tons of CO₂. The Better Climate Challenge builds on this work and leverages technical assistance from across DOE offices to support organizations in accelerating both energy efficiency and other clean energy investments.

What if my organization has already established a GHG emissions goal?

Any organization willing to set at least a 50% GHG emissions reduction goal over 10-years is welcome to join the Better Climate Challenge.

This Challenge is intended to complement existing goals while adding value through a national platform for peer learning, development of real-world pathways, and technical assistance. Organizations that have established similarly aligned commitments are encouraged to reach out to DOE to discuss how they can participate. DOE will accept pre-established goals with an approved 1.5° Celsius aligned science-based target, on a case-by-case basis.

DOE has an ongoing Low Carbon Pilot; how does this effort connect to that?

Since December 2020, over 60 Better Buildings Low Carbon Pilot partners have been working with DOE to address barriers and share pathways to decarbonization in buildings and plants. Over a two-year timeframe, partners are sharing their successes and challenges pursuing decarbonization strategies at two or more of their buildings or plants.

Lessons learned from the Pilot informed the structure of the Better Climate Challenge. The Better Climate Challenge is a portfolio wide GHG emissions reduction goal over 10 years. Both efforts will drive ongoing resource development and help inform Better Climate Challenge partners in strategies to reduce GHG emissions.

What are the requirements regarding data reporting and transparency?

- ▶ Partners commit to annually report scope 1 and 2 GHG emissions and energy data across their building/plant portfolio. Partners can also share data for owned/operated fleets.
- ▶ Partners are encouraged to establish an absolute emissions reduction goal, but intensity-based goals will also be accepted.
- ▶ Partners may submit portfolio-wide data aligned with the Greenhouse Gas Protocol and share facility-level data (through ENERGY STAR® Portfolio Manager or industrial sector reporting tools) and obtain DOE assistance with emissions calculations.
- ▶ Organizations must select a base year no more than 5 years back from their join date. The most recent base year with available data is preferred.
- ▶ Emissions will be calculated using both location-based and market-based emissions factors. Organizations should provide market-based emissions factors when data is available.

What is included in scope 1 and 2 emissions?

Partners commit to publicly report scope 1 and 2 greenhouse gas emissions and energy data across their building/plant portfolio.

Scope 1 includes direct emissions that occur from sources that are owned or controlled by the company. This includes emissions from:

- ▶ Stationary combustion for production of electricity, heat, or steam)
- ▶ Mobile combustion (transportation)
- ▶ Fugitive emissions (refrigerants – partners encouraged to include if data is available)

Scope 2 accounts for emissions associated with electricity or steam purchased from the grid and consumed by the organization.

What is the process for establishing an energy efficiency target?

An energy efficiency target is key to a cost effective decarbonization strategy. Partners will identify an energy efficiency target that will contribute towards their 50% GHG emissions reduction. DOE will work with new partners to establish a meaningful yet achievable target. DOE recommends a 20% energy efficiency target. Organizations involved in the Better Buildings or Better Plants Challenge with an established energy reduction goal are not required to set an additional energy efficiency target.

How will DOE deliver technical assistance through the Better Climate Challenge?

As partners develop their organization wide-plan and GHG emissions reduction milestones, DOE will work to identify opportunities for technical assistance. Partners will work with their Account Managers and technical experts from the National Labs. Industrial partners will work closely with their Technical Account Managers and can leverage In-Plant Trainings and other technical assistance opportunities.

Why is it so important to share my results and success?

Many organizations have set decarbonization goals and what is needed now is action and replicable pathways to decarbonization that other organizations can follow. To support broad market transformation, organizations need to understand what solutions work. Supporting cooperation DOE strives to foster dialogue between organizations to drive action.

Does the emissions reduction goal account for all of an organization's greenhouse gas emissions or just CO₂ emissions?

The emissions included in the reduction goal are the same as those covered through the [GHG Protocol Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard](#). The standard gasses included are carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, sulfur hexafluoride, nitrogen trifluoride.

Does every organization joining the Challenge have to reduce by 50% or more?

Yes, the Challenge goal is at least a 50% reduction in GHG emissions over 10 years. DOE will work with organizations as they develop organization-wide GHG emissions reduction plans and provide technical assistance with meeting their goal.

Can my organization use offsets as part of our decarbonization strategy?

For the Better Climate Challenge, DOE is asking organizations to meet their goal by prioritizing reductions in operational GHG emissions. To be a goal achiever, organizations must meet the 50% reduction target without using GHG offsets. Beyond the 50% threshold, organizations can decide if offsets make sense for their decarbonization strategy.

The **Better Climate Challenge** is a national leadership initiative calling on chief executive officers, university presidents, and state and local leaders to reduce GHG emissions, create jobs, and promote healthy, safe, and thriving communities. Better Climate Challenge Partners will make public commitments to action - committing to a 50% or more reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions across their U.S. building and plant portfolio in 10-years.

Partner Agrees To:

Commit

- ▶ **Publicly pledge** to reduce GHG emissions by 50% or more across their U.S. building and plant portfolio in 10-years without the use of offsets. Partners can also include owned/operated fleets.
- ▶ Pursue an **energy efficiency target** as part of their decarbonization strategy.
- ▶ Assign a **senior executive and primary point of contact** to work closely with DOE.

Take Action

- ▶ Develop an **organization-wide plan** with GHG reduction milestones.
- ▶ **Share information on the low GHG strategies** implemented to achieve the GHG reduction commitment.
- ▶ **Participate** in at least one **working group** to discuss barriers, exchange best practices, and identify solutions.

Report Results

- ▶ Make available **portfolio-wide energy performance and scope 1 and 2 emissions data** through ENERGY STAR® Portfolio Manager® and/or a data collection spreadsheet.
- ▶ Report data **annually** for 10 years.

US Department of Energy Agrees To:

Assist

- ▶ Provide **technical assistance** and **low GHG implementation strategies** to support partners' commitment to measure, track, and improve portfolio-wide GHG performance.
- ▶ **Collaborate** with partner on a regular basis.

Connect

- ▶ **Collect and share best practices** and highlight strategies that have been used to measure and reduce operational GHG emissions.
- ▶ **Facilitate peer-to-peer learning** among partners and **convene working groups** to discuss barriers and identify solutions.

Recognize Success

- ▶ **Provide national recognition to partners** for achieving program milestones and GHG emissions reduction results.
- ▶ **Recognize partners** that leverage, develop, and share innovative and cost-effective GHG emissions reduction implementation strategies.

Agreement:

My organization agrees to the General Terms of the Better Climate Challenge.

SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER SIGNATURE

DATE

SENIOR EXECUTIVE PRINTED NAME

Point of Contact Information:

ORGANIZATION

ADDRESS

REPRESENTATIVE

EMAIL ADDRESS

TITLE

PHONE NUMBER

Organization's Commitment:

SQUARE FOOTAGE OR NUMBER OF FACILITIES COMMITTED

GOAL BASE YEAR

GHG EMISSIONS REDUCTION GOAL (E.G., 50% GHG REDUCTION WITHIN 10 YEARS)

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TARGET

General Terms:

- ▶ All parties concur that this agreement is wholly voluntary and may be terminated by any party at any time, and for any reason, with no penalty.
- ▶ Partner will not construe, claim, or imply that its participation in the Better Climate Challenge constitutes Federal Government approval, acceptance, or endorsement of anything other than Partner's commitment to the initiative.
- ▶ Partner understands its participation in the Better Buildings Initiative does not constitute Federal Government endorsement of Partner.
- ▶ Partner understands that the activities it undertakes in connection with the Better Buildings Initiative are voluntary and not intended to provide services to the Federal Government. Partner will not submit a claim for compensation to any federal agency.
- ▶ The Better Climate Challenge will honor all requests to keep the Partner's information and data confidential.