



Supporting New Buildings Institute (NBI)

What is NBI?

For more than 25 years, New Buildings Institute (NBI) has worked collaboratively to promote advanced building design practices, innovative technologies, public policies, and programs that improve energy efficiency and reduce emissions from the built environment.

Our efforts keep energy costs affordable, cut building emissions that are fueling climate change, and deliver on improved health, safety, and resiliency for everyone. We work with industry market players—governments, utilities, advocates, design professionals, communities, and others—to drive leading-edge design, innovative technologies, and public policies and programs to scale.

Throughout its 25-year history, NBI has become a trusted and independent resource helping to create buildings that are better for people, communities, and the planet.

Learn More:

Explore options for supporting NBI: Contact Meghan Humphreys, NBI Senior Development Manager, to learn more: 503-851-9338 or meghan@newbuildings.org.

How can better buildings impact the climate and quality of life?

With buildings and construction representing 39% of the global carbon footprint (taking into account both building materials and operating emissions), they represent a big part of the climate solution.

- The U.S. spends more than \$430 billion each year to power our homes and commercial buildings, consuming more than 70% of all electricity used in the U.S., about 40% of our nation's total energy bill. Energy efficiency is America's largest energy resource, contributing more to the nation's energy needs over the last 40 years than oil, coal, natural gas, or nuclear power.¹
- Energy efficiency remains a key component of a decarbonized and sustainable building stock.
- Efficiency delivers many benefits to households and workplaces including lower utility expenses, better comfort and wellness, and higher productivity.

Ways to be involved / support our work:

NBI welcomes individual donations in a range of ways that can support your preferred individual giving options, including:

- [Direct donation via website](#) – both one-time and monthly recurring donations
- Distributions from a donor advised fund or IRA account
- Planned gifts and bequests in your will / estate plan

Please reach out to Meghan Humphreys at NBI to learn more about your giving options.

Results We Seek

NBI works in three program areas related to North America's buildings.

Codes and Policy Advancement: We develop and influence codes and policies that favor high performance buildings, which are a critical tool in meeting the ambitious climate goals of states and cities. Working both at the local and national levels, NBI is driving major leaps for both new and renovated buildings across the U.S.

Building and Program Innovation: We lead mission-critical research, technical analysis, tools, and guidance that help those seeking to drive better energy performance outcomes in commercial buildings. Initiatives like the Advanced Water Heating Initiative and the GridOptimal® Buildings Initiative are leading the way for key decarbonization technologies such as heat pump water heating and building-grid integration.

Leadership and Market Development:

Our efforts — leadership, research, education, communications and convenings—are driving up market demand for net zero energy and carbon neutral buildings. This guidance helps the design community deliver on the promise of improved technology, advanced codes, and decarbonized buildings.

Support a project: NBI also welcomes targeted support for specific projects, including those that improve key technologies such as [heat pump water heaters](#), drive innovation in [building-grid integration](#), adopt [better building codes](#), and guide designers in [achieving buildings that are healthy and reduce carbon pollution](#).

The Impact of our Work

The Next Gen Program

NBI launched the [Next Gen professional development program](#) in 2021 to help build a workforce that looks like the demographic make-up of America's future - young, inspired, and diverse. The first cohort of Next Gen included 20 students from all around the United States and Canada. 80% of the students identified as women and 80% identified as people of color.

Students were able to be paired with industry mentors, participate in monthly discussion groups, network with their peers, and build industry contacts by attending the Getting to Zero Forum. Several students cited the program in helping them to find jobs and internships in the built environment.

The success of the program has led to the [2022-23 program](#) almost doubling in size, with two cohorts of 37 students total.

Getting K-12 Schools to Carbon Neutral

In 2022, NBI released the [Decarbonization Roadmap Guide for School Building Decision Makers](#), designed to provide school stakeholders with the tools needed to create achievable goals for carbon neutral buildings. As part of the release of the guide, NBI is actively tracking school districts throughout the country that have committed to decarbonization through a format district resolution provided as part of the roadmap. We have so far tracked 21 school districts and jurisdictions that have passed resolutions and expect this list will continue to grow. [See the full list of districts that have passed resolutions here.](#)

Our Vision

We envision a transformed built environment that is carbon-free, sustainable, and energy-efficient and supports thriving economies that benefit all people and the planet.

Our Mission

We push for better buildings that achieve zero energy, zero carbon, and beyond—through research, policy, guidance, and market transformation—to protect people and the planet.



Learn more at newbuildings.org/donate
or email meghan@newbuildings.org