

Hall County joins Better Buildings Challenge

July 5, 2012

On June 26, Hall County Government announced its partnership in the Better Buildings Challenge, a Department of Energy (DOE) national leadership program calling on corporate chief executives, university presidents, state, local and school district leaders to reduce their portfolio-wide energy use by 20 percent by 2020 and showcase the solutions they use and the results they achieve. Hall County pledged to reduce energy use in 1.3 million square feet of its public facilities by 20 percent as well as work with buildings in Hall County to achieve similar savings.

As a Better Buildings Challenge Community Partner, Hall County Government has pledged to make aggressive efforts to increase energy efficiency by implementing portfolio-wide energy management programs and working with building owners in their community. The county is working to develop its showcase project and will also share facility-level energy use data as well as successful strategies and approaches with DOE, other Partners, and the public. The data and solution transparency they provide will serve as an example to other communities and help transform the market toward increased energy efficiency.

Local governments can play a key role in facilitating energy efficiency across communities through implementing innovative policies, building codes, and financing strategies, as well as developing new models of public-private partnerships.

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, commercial buildings and industrial plants in the U.S account for 50 percent of the nation's primary energy use, cost about \$400 billion to operate, and produce 40 percent of the country's CO2 emissions. By taking steps to become more energy-efficient, DOE estimates that many buildings can reduce energy use by 20 percent.

About the Better Buildings Challenge

The Better Buildings Challenge is a national leadership initiative that calls on chief executive officers, university presidents, and state and local leaders to significantly reduce their portfolio wide energy use and share the results of their energy reduction strategies. Launched by President Obama in December of 2011, the goal of the Better Buildings Challenge is to make American commercial and industrial buildings at least 20 percent more energy efficient by 2020. More than 100 organizations, representing almost 2 billion square feet of commercial and industrial buildings and almost \$2 billion in energy efficiency financing, currently partner with the U.S. Department of Energy in the Better Buildings Challenge.