

Commercial Building Energy Alliance Supplier Summits

Through its supplier summits, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) recognizes the critical role equipment suppliers play in the effort to reduce commercial buildings' energy consumption and carbon emissions.

Membership in DOE's Commercial Building Energy Alliances (CBEAs) is open only to the owners and operators of buildings in various sectors. However, DOE understands equipment suppliers can assist alliance members in the challenge of making the nation's existing and new commercial buildings more energy efficient.

DOE and the alliances frequently host supplier summits, which allow commercial building owners and operators to communicate their energy-efficiency needs directly to building equipment suppliers. In turn, suppliers are challenged to explore ways to meet those needs. The summits also offer suppliers and manufacturers of building equipment the opportunity to learn from member companies—such as Macy's, Grubb & Ellis, and Hospital Corporation of America—about the barriers that prevent the companies from using cost-effective, innovative strategies. All parties engage in a dialogue on how to eliminate these barriers.



Photo: DOE/NREL

Suppliers of innovative building equipment play an important role in the dual challenge of making the nation's existing and new commercial buildings more energy efficient.

Working Together to Find Solutions

Alliance members work in conjunction with DOE and organizations such as the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) and the Illuminating Engineering Society of North America (IES) to host supplier summits that address specific sets of energy-efficiency needs. Current supplier summits include:

- The Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC), Refrigeration, and Controls Supplier Summit
- The Lighting and Controls Supplier Summit
- The Renewable Energy Supplier Summit, which focuses on the challenges of and opportunities for renewable energy integration in existing and new buildings
- The Building Envelope Supplier Summit, which focuses on windows, insulation, foundation, and other components.

These daylong events focus on retrofitting existing buildings, as well as creating energy-efficient new buildings. They often include an introductory discussion, breakout sessions, and a question and answer session. Also, "speed-dating" sessions provide an opportunity for CBEA members and suppliers to meet one-on-one.

Charting a Course Toward Energy Efficiency

The CBEAs are informal associations among commercial building owners and operators who are committed to reducing the energy consumption and operating costs of their buildings. Members work directly with DOE and its national laboratories to identify and implement energy-efficiency technologies and practices.