nbi new buildings institute

Strategic Plan

FY27-29



newbuildings.org

© New Buildings Institute, All Rights Reserved. Published March 2026

Table of Contents

3 Mission Statement

3 Our Expertise and Areas of Impact

4 Advance Energy Codes for New Construction

4 Accelerate Existing Building Upgrades

5 Deploy Innovative Technologies

6 Advance Beneficial Outcomes

6 Build Global Collaboration

6 Contact

New Buildings Institute (NBI) is a mission-driven nonprofit organization incorporated in 1997 in California, now headquartered in Portland, Oregon. Our staff members work from more than a dozen states, integrating expertise on codes and policy advancement, emerging technology, and market education on advanced buildings. Throughout our history, NBI has been a steadfast advocate for zero energy buildings and codes. We are a trusted, objective, independent thought leader and advisor, fostering a built environment that is better for people, communities, and the planet.

NBI has decades of experience advancing the transition to a low-carbon built environment by supporting governments and utilities to meet their clean energy and decarbonization goals. We create effective building codes and policies grounded in proven best practices and technologies.

Our approach is rooted in improving people's lives. We believe that expanding access to high-performance buildings can improve public health, strengthen community resilience, enhance energy and housing affordability, and support sustainable economic development.

To achieve this multi-faceted goal, we push boundaries in search of what's possible, convene a variety of perspectives to forge common ground, and translate evidence into policies and actions that drive meaningful change.

Mission Statement

We unlock the power of buildings to transform energy systems and improve lives through evidence-based policies and solutions.

Our Vision

We envision a future where high-performance buildings supporting human and environmental health are the norm.

Our Expertise and Areas of Impact

We believe public policy is among the most powerful levers for protecting public interest while advancing technological innovation and economic development. Developing and advancing effective policy requires a series of market-transforming interventions. We design interventions to enable policy development and adoption.

However, policy adoption is not the end goal. Policies must continue to evolve based on real-world impacts and changes. We support this continuous improvement cycle by clearing the path for implementation, capturing lessons learned, and applying those insights to the next generation of policy development, creating sustained progress. Specifically,

- We identify emerging technologies and best practices through which buildings achieve higher performance with lower environmental impact. We assess barriers to the widespread adoption of those technologies and practices.
- We help lower barriers to policy adoption by developing and testing solutions to tackle specific pain points and creating practical tools and scalable frameworks to support market adoption.
- We document, synthesize, and share evidence to build market capacity and turn best practices into standard practice.
- We advance the development of low-carbon building codes and policies and advocate for enabling legislation that spans energy and carbon codes, energy and environmental laws, and taxpayer- and ratepayer-funded programs.

We will apply this expertise across five strategic areas critical to decarbonizing the built environment and realizing the multiple benefits of high-performance buildings: advanced energy codes for new construction; retrofitting existing buildings; deployment of innovative building technologies; advancing beneficial outcomes; and advancing global collaboration.

01 Advance Energy Codes for New Construction

We will achieve progress on model codes and support low-/zero-energy and carbon codes development and adoption in states and jurisdictions while preventing rollbacks where codes are threatened.

1. Identify and showcase how state priorities—such as affordability, jobs, and resilience—are reflected in code frameworks and position building codes as effective levers for achieving broader climate, health, and economic objectives.
2. Develop building energy codes that blend decarbonization and energy resilience, while aligning with the interests of leading manufacturers.
3. Document real-world experiences of leading portfolio owners and design professionals—capturing benefits, showcasing best practices, and verifying feasibility.
4. Drive the adoption of advanced energy codes in early-mover states and jurisdictions by galvanizing state leadership and support for legislative action.
5. Translate successes back to national model codes to support broader uptake.



02 Accelerate Existing Building Upgrades

We will establish consistency among policies, close gaps between policies and real-world experience, and improve the efficiency and performance of existing buildings through retrofits at scale.

1. Align the structure and targets of building codes and Building Performance Standards (BPS) so that consistent policy sends strong, unified market signals and streamlines compliance pathways.
2. Quantify and publicize the non-energy benefits of efficiency upgrades, including energy resilience, load management, and public health, to encourage compliance with BPS and enable stacked financing.
3. Identify and remove non-technical barriers to BPS compliance, such as workforce shortages, obstructive or conflicting policies, and lack of access to financing.
4. Provide evidence and direct technical assistance to facility management and organizational leaders to empower long-term facility planning that prioritizes efficiency and resilience.

03 Deploy Innovative Technologies

We will accelerate the market uptake of energy-efficient and low-carbon technologies, emphasizing building-grid integration solutions.

1. Act as the central market convener for electric, grid-integrated, energy-efficient technologies to increase understanding in the residential and commercial markets, improve occupant comfort, increase market demand, and foster integration of these technologies into federal, state, and utility incentives and policies.
2. Increase consumer access to heat pumps and other market-proven technologies by making them a viable, compelling choice during emergency replacements, retrofits, and procurement processes.
3. Integrate behind-the-meter solutions (efficiency, demand flexibility, microgrids, thermal and energy storage) into grid management and electric utility planning.
4. Shape state and local policies and leverage innovative financing mechanisms to align technology deployment with projected load growth—particularly from data centers—and deliver long-term benefits for the grid, communities, and the environment.



04 Advance Beneficial Outcomes

We will reduce energy burdens, negative health impacts, and disaster vulnerability through improved building policy design and implementation and accessible communications.

1. Build meaningful and mutually beneficial relationships with community-based organizations and other local advocates, and incorporate their feedback into building codes, policy, and technology development.
2. Position NBI as a trusted, go-to resource for accessible technical and communications materials for community-based organizations and local advocates.
3. Reduce barriers that prevent underrepresented populations or underserved communities from accessing incentives, services, technologies, and other opportunities.



05 Build Global Collaboration

We will advance locally tailored building and energy solutions that reduce emissions and adaptation measures that lower climate risk for vulnerable populations.

1. Facilitate knowledge exchange with countries where NBI can both advise on and learn about best practices and emerging technologies.
2. Provide technical assistance to international and country-specific organizations to advance building policy; implement evidence-based solutions; and demonstrate technologies that support climate goals, create economic opportunities, and protect at-risk populations.

Questions?

Contact us at info@newbuildings.org.

nbi new buildings institute

