

GETTING TO  
**zero**

# Next Gen Program

Are you interested in helping students start their careers in sustainability, energy efficiency, or building decarbonization?

Next Gen is NBI's early career workforce development program for college students, fostering the next generation of diverse buildings industry leaders.

**People of color** are among the **most at risk** of being left behind by the decarbonization and electrification movement. This will result in disproportionate financial burden unless programs are planned with equity at their core. The industry must be **more diverse** to ensure **everyone** can access and benefit from building efficiency and electrification measures. **Next Gen is part of the solution.**

The program works to address the lack of diversity in the industry by prioritizing students from underserved communities and preparing participants for their career in sustainability and resiliency.

Next Gen is a **FREE** career preparation program that provides:



**Professional certification**



**Career preparation**



**Mentorship**



**Cohort building**



**Education**



**Conference attendance**

In partnership with Building Potential, we are now offering the **Fundamentals of Energy Efficient Building Operations** as a pathway to the **Building Operator Certificate (BOC)**!



- **Clean energy jobs** are **growing** at a rate of 4.9%, **more than double** the economy-wide construction growth ([US Energy and Employment Report 2024](#)).
- There is a **shortage of skilled workers** in the green job market. **1 in 5** green jobs lacks an employee with necessary skills ([LinkedIn Global Clean Jobs Report](#)).
- Companies with **greater diversity** are **higher performing** than those lacking diversity. Organizations in the top 25% for board gender and ethnic diversity outperform those in the bottom quartile (39% and 27% more likely, respectively) ([McKinsey & Company, 2023](#)).

**Next Gen reduces barriers and equips participants from underrepresented communities with the skills, mentorship, and connections they need to be competitive in the job market.**

**By funding this program, you are opening doors for talented individuals and helping businesses thrive through the proven power of diversity.**

## Here's how you can make a difference

**\$1,450**

per student

Provide a scholarship for one or more students' **BOC Fundamentals course**.

**\$7,000**

per student

Sponsor one or more students' **full Next Gen program experience**.

**\$35,000**

Sponsor five students' **full Next Gen program experience**.

**Applications will open  
early 2026**

### Questions?

**Contact Emma Riccardi  
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New Buildings Institute (NBI) is a mission-driven nonprofit organization advancing scalable and practical approaches to equitably eliminating emissions from the built environment. NBI collaborates with industry market actors and stakeholders to drive innovative technologies and best practices in policies and programs. Throughout our 25-year history, NBI has been a trusted, objective, and independent resource to foster a built environment that is better for people, communities, and the planet. Learn more at [newbuildings.org](https://newbuildings.org)