



FACT SHEET: THE GLOBAL SUPERIOR ENERGY PERFORMANCE PARTNERSHIP

At the Clean Energy Ministerial in Washington, D.C. on July 19th and 20th, ministers launched a new public-private partnership to accelerate energy efficiency improvements in commercial buildings and industrial facilities, which together account for almost 60 percent of global energy use. **The Global Superior Energy Performance (GSEP) Partnership** will cut energy use, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and pollution, save money, and create jobs.

GSEP will help businesses, governments, and other entities to identify and follow money-saving pathways to reduce energy use. It has three major components:

1. A harmonized implementation and certification process to encourage continuous energy efficiency improvements in commercial buildings (e.g., offices, hospitals, stores, etc.) and industrial manufacturing facilities (inclusive of industrial processes and manufacturing operations).¹ The certification process will rely on facilities implementing an energy management system, such as the forthcoming ISO 50001 energy management standard, and achieving energy performance improvements validated by a third party.
2. Sectoral task groups to accelerate the adoption of efficiency-enhancing and emissions-reducing best practices and technologies within specific sectors (e.g., power, steel, and hotel chains) through public-private partnerships.
3. Cross-sectoral technology task groups to facilitate the adoption of specific energy-saving solutions, such as “cool roofs” and combined heat and power technologies.

GSEP will also help governments and utilities to identify and adopt policies and programs that incentivize continuous energy performance improvements.

Certification

Many commercial buildings and industrial facilities are designed and constructed in a manner that attempts to yield optimal energy performance. However, without proper maintenance and energy management, efficiency in even the best facilities declines over time. Unfortunately, this degradation is fairly common due to a variety of factors, from a lack of trained staff to insufficient incentives.

As a result, many commercial buildings and industrial facilities can cost-effectively improve their energy efficiency by at least 10 percent to 30 percent without major capital expenditure if a comprehensive energy management system is implemented. The adoption of new technologies provides additional opportunities for improvement.

GSEP will promote the adoption of an energy management system by participating entities through a network of harmonized certification programs established by participating governments. These certification programs will

¹ Public and educational facilities can also participate.

award an internationally recognized certification to facilities that adopt an approved system for managing energy use and achieve significant and independently-validated efficiency improvements over time.

GSEP participants will also benefit from knowledge-sharing about how to track and accelerate energy performance improvements. Owners and operators of facilities will receive tools and training to help them achieve continuous improvements in energy performance, and their facilities will be recognized as international leaders through the certification programs.

GSEP certification will be piloted in commercial buildings by Cleveland Clinic, Grubb & Ellis Company, Marriott International, Inc., Target Corporation, and Walmart Stores, Inc.; in industrial facilities by 3M Company, Nissan, and Dow Chemical Company; in public buildings by the United States and Canada; and in an educational setting by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In addition, as part of implementing its Energy Conservation Act of 2001, India is requiring many of its energy-intensive commercial buildings and industrial facilities to institutionalize energy management, which is consistent with key requirements of GSEP certification. Preliminary analyses indicate that if GSEP is adopted by all major economies, its resulting energy savings each year by 2025 will be equivalent to the production of 530 mid-sized power plants.²

Sectoral Task Groups

GSEP will include public-private task groups for specific energy-intensive sectors, such as power, steel, and hotel chains. These task groups will have three main purposes: 1) identifying and promoting deployment of best-available efficiency technologies and best practices; 2) standardizing sectoral protocols for measuring and monitoring energy use; and 3) facilitating communication among stakeholders.

Examples of potential task group activities for each respective sector include:

1. Standardizing methods for measuring energy efficiency and GHG emissions;
2. Collecting aggregate data on energy intensity and creating performance benchmarks;
3. Compiling databases of efficient technologies and best practices in facility management;
4. Conducting on-site peer-review and assessment for facilities;
5. Organizing workshops and networks through which multiple stakeholders share experiences, build capacity, and execute projects; and,
6. Identifying best practice policies that enable efficiency and encouraging their adoption.

Cross-Sectoral Technology Task Groups

GSEP will facilitate the deployment of specific energy-saving technologies, such as “cool roofs,” other forms of advanced building envelope design, and combined heat and power through public-private task groups. These task groups will engage in activities to encourage broad adoption of key efficiency solutions across sectors (as opposed to focusing on solutions for specific sectors, as the sectoral task groups do). Such activities include:

1. Sharing best practices and developing tools to assist facilities managers in the deployment of innovative technologies;
2. Empowering policymakers to create strong enabling environments; and,

² Lawrence Berkeley National Lab and Oak Ridge National Laboratory analyzed the potential energy savings in commercial buildings and industrial facilities, respectively. The energy savings are relative to business-as-usual.

3. Providing guidance on mechanisms for financing deployment.

Participants as of July 19, 2010

Participating governments include Canada, the European Commission, France, India, Japan, Korea, Mexico, South Africa, Sweden, and the United States. Pilot participants include 3M Company, Cleveland Clinic, Dow Chemical Company, Grubb & Ellis Company, Marriott International, Inc., Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Nissan, Target Corporation, and Walmart Stores, Inc. Initial participants in the sectoral task groups include JFE Steel Corporation and Tokyo Electric Power Company.

The international GSEP partnership has initial funding of US\$3 million in 2010 from the United States for technical work, coordination, training, and associated information-sharing efforts. The international GSEP effort will further leverage approximately US\$5 million in 2010 funds from the United States for domestic implementation of GSEP. Subsequent funding should gradually decline as funds for one-time start-up costs are no longer needed and national certification programs become self-sustaining.