
Concept Note: Building Efficiency Accelerator - Asia LEDS Partnership's Community of Practice on Building Energy Efficiency

Background and Context

Urban dwellers spend most of their time in buildings, so the quality and performance of buildings has a significant impact on quality of life. Improving the efficiency of buildings is one of the fastest and most cost-effective ways of reducing carbon emissions and improving local economic development, air quality, and public health.

But the vast majority of buildings are notably inefficient, resulting in one-third of the world's electricity consumed by buildings. Less than 20 per cent of the global potential for cost-saving buildings efficiency improvements has been achieved (IEA 2013). The slow building energy efficiency uptake results from various barriers including low awareness, insufficient actionable information, lack of technical expertise, gaps in regulation and enforcement, access to finance, high upfront costs and multi-year payback periods - encountered in both developed and developing economies. As buildings are long-lived assets (with lifespans of 50 years or more), large-scale action on sustainable buildings is needed in rapidly growing Asian countries as soon as possible to avoid locking in unsustainable infrastructure and practices.

In most Asian countries, subnational governments are primarily responsible for implementing locally appropriate policies related to building energy efficiency and can thereby catalyse actions in construction and real estate. Through national-subnational collaboration, building energy efficiency successes demonstrated at the sub-national level can be scaled up nationwide through enabling national policies and programs. Large scale building efficiency action is a key pathway for country governments to achieve Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) goals.

To support building efficiency implementation in Asian countries, the Building Energy Efficiency (BEE) Community of Practice (CoP) is being launched to connect national and subnational government officials, key technical and institutional partners, private sector and civil society on a regular basis to share knowledge and experiences. The BEE CoP will promote sustainable energy and efficiency actions for buildings in cities and to promote national sub-national integration.

The BEE CoP is an initiative of the Asia LEDS Partnership in collaboration with the Building Efficiency Accelerator.

About the Building Efficiency Accelerator:

The [Building Efficiency Accelerator \(BEA\)](#) is a public-private collaboration that assists subnational governments in speeding up the adoption of building efficiency policies and projects. It is one of the programs of the Global Energy Efficiency Accelerator Platform that promotes public-private partnerships to scale up energy efficiency policies, action and investment.

About Asia LEDS Partnership:

The [Asia LEDS Partnership](#) is a voluntary regional network comprised of individuals and organizations active in designing, promoting and/or implementing low emission development strategies (LEDS) in Asia. The Asia LEDS Partnership is one of four regional partnerships of the [Low Emission Development Strategies Global Partnership \(LEDS GP\)](#).

The Community of Practice on Building Energy Efficiency

The Building Energy Efficiency (BEE) Community of Practice (CoP) is intended to serve as an interactive network of experts and practitioners in building energy efficiency that come together as a group to regularly engage in peer to peer learning to improve their personal and collective knowledge. The BEE CoP will be transnational across Asia and provide an opportunity for sustained participation and deeper learning.

The BEE CoP will focus on building energy efficiency activities and converging sub-national building energy efficiency plans at the national level. In the long run, the CoP shall also focus on sustainable energy for buildings, including demand and supply.

The CoP's activities will intend to capture and support the needs of sub-national governments and relevant opportunities for enabling action by national governments –in order to promote uptake of actions to enhance building energy efficiency.

The BEE CoP will give initial priority to learning and technical collaboration on the following topics:

- **Building Energy Efficiency Policy** - national and sub-national governments can select from various policy options to design a locally appropriate policy package which helps address challenges and bridges the efficiency gap to tap into opportunities available across different building types.
- **Building Energy Efficiency Financing** - financial instruments and approaches can encourage greater investments and enable implementation of building efficiency actions at scale by tackling economic barriers, lowering risks, and expanding the pool of available funds.
- **Building Energy Efficiency Technologies** - adoption of the right suite of technology solutions and practices can help realize energy savings in a cost effective manner, both in the design and construction of new buildings and in the renovation of existing/old buildings for improved efficiency.

The BEE CoP may address additional issues over time based on participant interests.

Activities and Offerings of the BEE CoP

The CoP will share solutions, best practices and learnings to accelerate building efficiency uptake and help address challenges faced in this regard, at both the sub-national as well as national level across the Asian region. CoP members will benefit from participation in online and in-person exchange meetings, seminars and trainings with other peers working on advancing building efficiency.

The online sessions and in-person meetings will be designed to include presentations by one or two selected participating cities and/or countries as well as expert practitioners in the field, and open discussions on approaches, success factors and challenges across specific local/national context.

The CoP will seek to further engage on knowledge sharing and offering support to active participants and early movers in the field of building energy efficiency and related topics as needs emerge. Members would have opportunities to avail specific technical and advisory support through the BEA and ALP's network.

The BEE CoP is designed to be demand driven and will conduct the following activities, depending on members' needs:

- Regional peer learning and training workshops
- Web seminars and online, moderated exchange sessions on specific topics
- Sharing of tools, methods and best practice cases
- Identification and facilitation of no-cost expert and peer advisory support
- Cross city and country collaboration on common measures

Participating cities will also have the opportunity to [join the BEA initiative](#) and contribute to the BEA's efforts to double the rate of energy efficiency improvements in the building sector by 2030. Cities signing up to the BEA can avail tools, resources, and support from the BEA partnership to help guide adoption building efficiency policy, implementation of pilot programs, and tracking and reporting of progress.



Participants

The BEE CoP participants are expected to include city, provincial and national government agencies, technical institutions, private firms, NGOs and/or international organizations that are working on furthering building efficiency implementation, from across the Asia region.

Countries, cities and institutions will be invited to join the BEE CoP and nominate participants by **November 30, 2019**. New members will be allowed to join after this period as the CoP becomes active in the region.

The CoP members are expected to commit to sharing knowledge and experiences, to applying learning and resources with their colleagues/peers and provide feedback on results achieved from engagement in the CoP. Members will work together to refine the BEE CoP's work plan, goals and activities.

Specific performance goals of the BEE CoP until April 2019 include

- At least eight cities and three National governments become CoP members
- At least three cities become BEA members
- At least two online sessions are organized
- At least one in-person meeting is organized
- At least two technical assistance requirements are identified and forwarded to partner technical organizations for support

Timeline of Activities:

Task	Tentative timeline
1. Recruit member participants for the Building Energy Efficiency CoP through sending invitations and requesting nominations to national and sub-national agencies, technical and private organizations	End of November 2019 ¹
2. First moderated online session: Convene CoP members to introduce the CoP, agree on work plan activities/topics, and initiate discussions and opportunity for countries to learn from presenters and each other, and to share experiences Suggested topic: Building Energy Efficiency Policy	December 2019
3. Second moderated online session Suggested topic: Building Energy Efficiency Financing	January 2020
4. Third moderated online session Suggested topic: Building Energy Efficiency Technologies (Tentative)	February 2020
5. In-person meeting at the ALP Forum 2020 focusing on specific priority topics identified	April 2020
6. Identification of technical assistance needs among CoP members and sharing of such requests for support to partner technical organizations	November- April 2020
7. Facilitation of CoP participants to join the BEA network	November- April 2020
8. Develop CoP activities summary report including assessment of impacts and next steps for continued engagement with members	April 2020

¹ New members will be allowed to join after this period as well