

Memorandum
Office of Jenine Windeshausen
Treasurer-Tax Collector



To: The Board of Supervisors

From: Jenine Windeshausen, Treasurer-Tax Collector

Date: June 19, 2012

Subject: United States Department of Energy Better Buildings Challenge

Action Requested:

- 1) Authorize the Treasurer-Tax Collector on behalf of mPOWER Placer to execute a no-cost, non-binding agreement, the Better Buildings Challenge Community Partnership Agreement, with the United States Department of Energy, specifying the commitment of increasing the energy efficiency of 5 million square feet of building space in the Placer County geographic area by 20% by 2020.
- 2) Authorize the Treasurer-Tax Collector to be the initial Better Buildings Challenge point of contact.
- 3) Authorize the Treasurer-Tax Collector to work with County Executive's Office to outline mPOWER Placer's program implementation model and to return to the Board within 60 days to request approval of the program implementation model.

Background:

The Better Buildings Challenge is a voluntary leadership initiative sponsored by US Department of Energy (DOE) with the goal of making commercial and industrial buildings across the country at least 20 percent more energy efficient by 2020. Participation in the Better Buildings Challenge will create opportunities to join with other partners (public and private) to share and shape solutions that create jobs, reduce energy consumption, and save money.

The Better Buildings Challenge Community Partnership Agreement (attached) is completely voluntary, non-binding and may be terminated at any time without penalty or cost. There is no financial commitment. The agreement calls for the targeting of a self-determined specification of building space (square feet) for increasing energy efficiency by 20% by 2020.

Through the Better Buildings Challenge, the County will have the opportunity to showcase and gain greater recognition for mPOWER Placer projects and the property owners who have implemented these projects. By partnering with the DOE, the Better Buildings Challenge will also provide the platform for local participants to have their energy efficiency projects and success recognized nationally.

As a Better Buildings Challenge Partner, mPOWER Placer will also help to recognize the County for the innovations related to energy efficiency finance and facilitation of energy efficiency improvements for commercial and industrial building stock in Placer County.

The Better Buildings Challenge program implementation model will:

- Identify one or more showcase projects
- Identify energy efficiency milestones
- Identify local program participants and target areas (voluntary)
- Integrate the ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager software (at no cost) into the mPOWER Placer energy efficiency tracking database.
- Provide outreach mechanisms and platforms for participant recognition
- Include other key elements related to increasing the energy efficiency of the commercial and industrial building stock in Placer County.

On June 26th and 27th, the DOE is hosting a Summit in Denver to gather Better Building Challenge partners to share ideas, and discuss successful energy efficiency financing and energy efficiency program design. Summit participants will include municipal and state officials and representatives from the private sector. During this Summit, new Better Building Challenge Partners will be announced. Should your Board approve the execution of the Better Buildings Challenge Community Partner Agreement, the County through the mPOWER Placer program will be announced as a new Partner during the Summit.

In conjunction with the Better Buildings Challenge Summit, the DOE is convening an invitation only workshop for local government representatives the day before the Summit to discuss and define best practices, standards and guidelines for municipally financed energy efficiency programs. mPOWER Placer has been identified as a key contributor and has been invited to attend this workshop the day before the Summit.

Fiscal Impact:

There is no direct fiscal impact. Participation in the program is voluntary. Program infrastructure and resources within mPOWER Placer can provide the necessary program support. Much of what is required to participate in the Better Buildings Challenge is already in place.

Attached: Better Building Challenge Community Partnership Agreement

Better Buildings Challenge

Community Partnership Agreement

The **Better Buildings Challenge** is a Presidential leadership initiative which calls on chief executive officers, university presidents, and state and local leaders to create American jobs through energy efficiency. **Community Partners** will make public commitments to action — specifically committing to advocate for energy efficiency and develop innovative partnerships and approaches to reduce energy intensity within their communities — and implement their plans to achieve lasting energy savings, improve our environment, and reduce our dependency on foreign oil.

The Partner Agrees to:

✓ Commit

- Assign a **senior leader and primary point of contact** to fulfill Better Buildings Challenge commitments within 1 month
- **Publicly pledge to improve the energy intensity of your portfolio by at least 20% by 2020 and work with local businesses, universities and other organizations** and encourage them to assess opportunities to promote measurable energy efficiency savings
- Develop an organization wide plan with energy reduction milestones to achieve energy savings commitment within 6 months

✓ Take Action

- **Publicly announce an initial showcase project** (e.g. retrofit, retro commissioning) within 3 months and initiate the project within 9 months.
- Announce the use of one or more **energy efficiency implementation models** within 6 months

✓ Report Results

- **Share information** on the energy efficiency implementation models used to achieve the energy-savings commitment
- Make available **portfolio-wide facility-level energy performance** information within 6 months and every 6 months thereafter
- **Provide regular updates on progress** with showcase projects and energy efficiency implementation models, energy savings across the organization, and energy performance at the facility level as the basis for recognition
- **Share successful energy efficiency initiatives with the Better Buildings Challenge Network**

The Department of Energy (DOE) Agrees to:

✓ Assist

- Provide **technical assistance and energy efficiency implementation models** to support Community Partners' commitment to measure, track, and improve energy performance
- Collaborate with Community Partner on a regular basis

✓ Connect

- **Establish a marketplace of energy efficiency stakeholders**, such as government, industry, utilities, service providers, financial institutions, and technology companies
- **Connect Community Partners** with Allies that commit to transparency and good faith efforts to provide products, services, financing and other resources to evaluate and support energy efficiency projects

✓ Recognize Success

- **Provide national recognition to Community Partners** for achieving program milestones and energy efficiency results
- **Recognize Community Partners** who leverage, develop, and share innovative and cost-effective energy efficiency implementation models

Agreement:

My organization is committed to continuous improvement in energy efficiency. We agree to the Better Buildings Challenge General Terms.

Senior Leader/ Government Leader

Contact Information:

Company: _____ Address: _____
Name: _____ Phone Number: _____
Title: _____ E-mail: _____
More Specific Commitment: _____

General Terms

- Both parties concur that this agreement is wholly voluntary and may be terminated by either party at any time, and for any reason, with no penalty.
- Partner will not construe, claim, or imply that its participation in the Better Buildings Challenge constitutes federal government approval, acceptance, or endorsement of anything other than Partner's commitment to the program.
- Partner understands its participation in the Better Buildings Challenge does not constitute federal government endorsement of Partner or its buildings, homes, products, services, or facilities.
- Partner understands that the activities it undertakes in connection with the Better Buildings Challenge are voluntary and not intended to provide services to the federal government. Partner will not submit a claim for compensation to any federal agency.
- The Better Buildings Challenge will honor all requests to keep the Partner's information and data confidential.