

NAESCO Members Help Launch New Efficiency Partnership in Greater Washington DC

An exciting new initiative called the “Energy Efficiency Partnership in Greater Washington.” has just been announced. The partnership aims to address climate change concerns by retrofitting buildings with energy efficiency products designed to decrease energy use and thereby reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Currently, the United States, with less than 10% of the world’s population, accounts for approximately 25% of global energy consumption. Buildings account for 36% of total energy use and 65% of electricity consumption. The partnership plans to reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions by 20 – 50% in existing buildings throughout the greater Washington, DC area. Ultimately, the partnership hopes its projects will serve as a model for other cities.

Hannon Armstrong and Pepco Energy Services, both members of the National Association of Energy Service Companies, are key partners in the partnership. Hannon Armstrong has committed \$500 million to help finance the initiative. Pepco Energy Services, a NAESCO-Accredited Energy Service Provider, will conduct energy audits, supply materials and perform the building retrofits. Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech) will serve as the partnership facilitator and will work to develop program momentum and governance, as well as taking on the task of documenting a partnership blueprint for future replication.

The partnership has attracted a number of prominent and diverse organizations to serve as associate partners:

- Arlington County government will work to identify public buildings for retrofitting as well as align partnership goals with new and existing civil outreach projects addressing energy efficiency and climate change.
- Commercial property owners/developers JBG and GVA Advantis will help identify or provide facilities for retrofits.
- Leo Daly, a leading architecture and engineering firm with a green design focus, will work on developing retrofit architecture and infrastructure at the design phase where relevant on a project-by-project basis.
- The National Building Museum is providing discussion forums and physical space for outreach and educational purposes.

Jeff Eckel, CEO, Hannon Armstrong, welcomes the balance and focus the partnership brings to the importance of energy efficiency in meeting the need for alternative energy resources. “As the U.S. lurches to a consensus on the importance of addressing climate change, energy efficiency has a hard time registering in the public conscience to other, more photogenic approaches such as wind and solar.” David Weiss, president and chief operating officer of the Energy Services Division of Pepco Energy Services adds, “There is an estimated \$3.6 billion of annual energy savings potential. We hope the partnership will bring greater focus to an immediate need for action.”