



Commercial Energy Strategies

The commercial sector can benefit from strategies that are designed to reduce energy consumption, increase energy efficiency, and help adopt more local renewable energy. The Energy Action Plan (EAP) can highlight strategies that can support businesses in reducing both energy consumption and operating costs.

Energy Efficiency

Commercial energy consumption is one of the largest contributors to community-wide greenhouse gas emissions, making strategies that maximize energy efficiency within business operations a frequent priority in EAPs. These strategies are designed to offer businesses access to energy efficiency opportunities while helping to increase profits and reduce emissions. Commercial energy strategies can come in the form of collaborative platforms that allow companies to share energy efficiency best practices and incentives, energy efficiency and green business award programs, and community-based organization partnerships that help to promote energy efficiency in commercial facilities.

EAPs can also include policy adjustments designed to promote energy efficiency in businesses. For example, cities may adopt energy efficiency standards, reduce permit costs for energy efficient businesses, or incentivize energy efficiency upgrades through rebates. Cities can even provide hands-on workshops and trainings for building and operations professionals.

Energy Conservation

In the business sector, conserving energy can be an attractive option to reduce costs because energy conservation can be implemented at little to no cost to a business. EAPs can include strategies designed to encourage energy conservation within the business community through engagement programs that offer information about the benefits of energy efficiency measures. These programs are often marketed and shared through city websites or local business forums. Some energy conservation measures can include changing hours of equipment operation, regulating building temperature, and installing sensors on lighting to automatically turn off when facilities are not in use.



Alternative Energy

Forms of renewable energy like solar and wind power are being widely adopted but a major roadblock to renewable energy growth in the commercial sector can be financing. Through the development of an EAP, cities can create financial incentives such as rebates, no or low interest loans, and group purchasing programs that lower the financial barriers to renewable energy adoption. These incentives are often coupled with strategies designed to inform the business community about these opportunities.

Solar power and the systems needed for this type of renewable energy can also come with some barriers because of facility conditions or permitting restrictions. EAPs can offer opportunities to identify these barriers and facilitate change. These strategies commonly highlight existing best practices in commercial renewable energy, such as, reduced permitting costs for renewable energy projects. The alternative energy strategies are helpful in achieving the EAP goals and greenhouse gas emission reduction targets.

Commercial Battery Storage

Battery storage is a vital resource for an emission free future when paired with renewable energy in businesses. Batteries can be paired with solar panels or wind turbines to store energy during times of variability, like when the sun isn't shining or wind dies down. One of the largest barriers to increasing residential energy storage can be the high cost. EAPs may introduce strategies to combat this barrier and accelerate commercial battery adoption.

Strategies for commercial battery storage can present some similarities to residential battery storage. Making pilot programs for dispatchable batteries that respond to energy demand from the grid or streamlining the permitting processes to connect batteries to the grid are two examples of beneficial commercial strategies. These actions coupled with educational programs can express the importance of increasing battery storage to facility managers and business owners. Increased commercial battery storage can help support grid reliability in the long run. The EAP offers opportunities to support local battery storage adoption and in turn greenhouse gas emission reductions.