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*Pacific NorthWest
Economic Region*

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PNWER Plan to Improve Buildings' Energy Efficiency in the Pacific Northwest Moves Forward

(BOISE, IDAHO) The Pacific NorthWest Economic Region's (PNWER) Energy and Environment policy group made progress on a regional initiative to improve energy efficiency in new and existing buildings on Friday, Nov. 18 during the Economic Leadership Forum.

The forum is an annual conference presented by the Pacific NorthWest Economic Region (PNWER), a public/private non-profit chartered by five states, three provinces, and two territories in 1991.

Case studies for 23 different buildings showcasing high energy efficiency, greenhouse gas emissions reductions and climate change adaptation were presented during the meeting's Energy Session as a component of the Roadmap to Resilient, Ultra-Low Energy Buildings in the Pacific Northwest.

Compared to new construction baseline for similar building types, the selected case studies showed 72 percent reductions in energy use on average and a 70 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. Residential and commercial buildings account for 40 percent of U.S. energy consumption, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

A case study of the Beardmore in Priest River, Idaho, examined a major retrofit of a 1922 office building which created a 66 percent gain in energy efficiency while maintaining National Register of Historic Places status.

"We are so glad to be able to use these case studies to show the incredible potential for our homes and offices. Efficient buildings will drastically reduce our energy usage and greenhouse gas emissions while providing a more comfortable place to live and work," said Rep. Deborah Boone, Oregon. "New construction and retrofits not only provide construction jobs, they can incorporate seismic upgrades and improve our region's resiliency to natural disasters."

Across different building types and uses, the studies found common design elements that achieve impressive energy efficiency, including high-performing insulation and windows and construction methods that focused on air tightness. The case studies will be shared with legislators, industry associations and policy makers to promote energy efficiency throughout the region.

"These case studies have paved the way. They've done the hard work," said Elyse Henderson, an energy and sustainability analyst with RDH Building Science. "If we use the lessons learned here, we can go a long way toward improving energy efficiency in the built environment."

See the [case studies](#) and learn more at pnwer.org/energy-and-environment.