

# Q1

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January – March 2025



**be**  
**ex**

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building  
energy  
exchange

**Richard Yancey**  
Chief Executive Officer

**Katie Schwamb**  
Managing Director,  
Educational Resources

**Hailey Moll**  
Manager,  
Educational Resources

**Paul Rivers**  
Manager,  
Operations & Memberships

**Kaylee McGowan**  
Senior Associate,  
Education & Engagement

**Stephanie Le**  
Associate,  
Education & Engagement

**Evana Said**  
Associate,  
Educational Resources

We welcomed the new year by gathering at the 2025 Winter Soirée, celebrating a decade of our WISE series, and developing new panel events.

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**January 16, 2025**

## **How & When? Clean Heat and Climate-Friendly Homes for All**

To kick off 2025, BE-Ex, NYCHA, NYPA, and NYSEERDA held a timely moderated panel discussion on New York State's groundbreaking Clean Heat for All initiative and NYCHA's window heat pump program.

Following the panel discussion, both in-person and online attendees engaged with industry experts in a live Q&A.





**March 13, 2025**

## **Speakable Series: Three Presentation Secrets**

More than 50 people joined us to hear Will Carlin, founder & CEO of Speakable, deliver a fun and engaging presentation on public speaking. Following the presentation, attendees chatted with peers while enjoying drinks and small bites.

**March 24, 2025**

## **Decarbonizing Your Building Workshop – D33**

Building Energy Exchange, Steven Winter Associates, Con Edison, and NYSEDA joined Council Member Lincoln Restler and Shahana Hanif in Boerun Hill for a building decarbonization community workshop.

column:

# Celebrating Progress and Collaboration at the BE-Ex & WISE 2025 Winter Soirée

by Stephanie Le

Associate, Education & Engagement  
Building Energy Exchange

What a memorable way to kick off 2025! This February, nearly 200 members of the Building Energy Exchange (BE-Ex) and [Women in Sustainability and Energy \(WISE\)](#) communities came together at the Exchange for the 2025 Winter Soirée—an evening of connection and celebration of the progress we've made together.

The event opened with welcoming remarks from BE-Ex Board Chair Jonathan P. Flaherty and Vice Chair Donna DeCostanzo, followed by special guest and BE-Ex board member Elijah Hutchinson, Executive Director of the NYC Mayor's Office of Climate & Environmental Justice. Their words reflected on BE-Ex's role as a trusted, neutral source for building decarbonization and emphasized the continued need for collaboration across sectors to drive building energy

efficiency in New York and around the world.

Afterwards, BE-Ex's Chief Executive Officer, Richard Yancey, and Managing Director, Katie Schwamb, shared highlights from 2024, spotlighting the many achievements of another year of impact and action.

In the past year, BE-Ex has:

- Developed 63 [events](#), attended by over 3,000 building decision-makers;
- Reached over 5,000 listeners with our [Radio BE-Ex](#) podcast;
- Hosted over 150,000 sessions on our [website](#); and
- Engaged over 600 offices, in 29 counties, dimming the lights in over 17.5 Million SF through our [Daylight Hour](#) social media campaign.



2025 Champions of WISE, Jocelyn Gan (left) and Ellen Abramowitz (right)

Our WISE series has also seen inspiring progress. 2025 marks the ten-year anniversary of the series. Since 2015, we have hosted more than 60 WISE events, ranging from panels discussions, to trivia nights, keynote presentations, networking lunches, and more. Through these events, over 115 female and nonbinary leaders across the industry have been spotlighted to share their insights and expertise. At the Soiree, we raised a glass to celebrate a decade of the WISE series' impact and to recognize the continued need for inclusive platforms that advance equity in the workplace.

Our audience then joined us to congratulate the 2025 recipients of our Champion of BE-Ex and our (newly launched) Champion of WISE awards!

Chosen for their remarkable leadership, vision, and impact this year's champions include:

- Ellen Abramowitz, Executive Director, Renewable Energy & Environmental Finance, Wells Fargo
- Jan Berman, President, JB Industries

- Gina Bocra, Vice President, Building Energy and Climate Solutions, WSP
- Jocelyn Gan, Energy and Sustainability Specialist, NYU Langone Health
- Adam Hinge, Managing Director, Sustainable Energy Partnerships

Following the program, attendees spent the rest of the night enjoying the BE-Ex community of leaders and doers, both new and old. We are grateful to everyone who joined us for our evening of celebration and reflection.

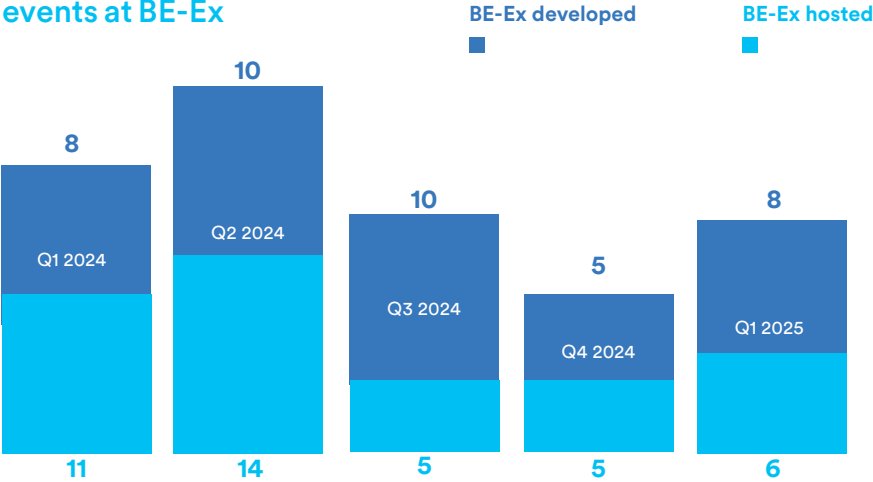
Here's to another great year of growth and impact! ■



● programs

BE-Ex delivered a range of new programs and expanded our Decarbonizing Your Building community workshop series and CMA Affordable Housing series. We continued our partnerships with organizations such as MOCEJ, NYSERDA, and Willdan.

events at BE-Ex



diversity goals

1. No all male panels

Q1: 0 all male panels

2. 50% female speakers across BE-Ex panel events

Q1: 14% non-male speakers



average number of days on calendar, BE-Ex events



average attendance, BE-Ex events

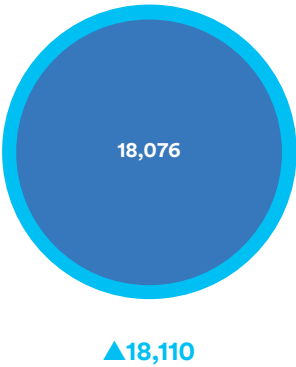


● audience

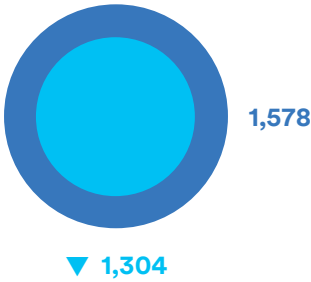
Social media campaigns such as Ten Years of WISE drove up engagement on all platforms. The BE-Ex & WISE 2025 Winter Soirée and other well-attended events drove users to our website.

■ Q4 2024    ■ Q1 2025

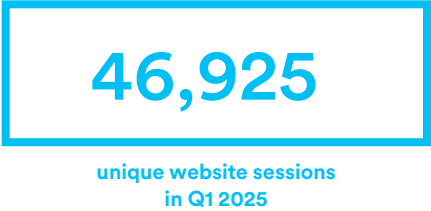
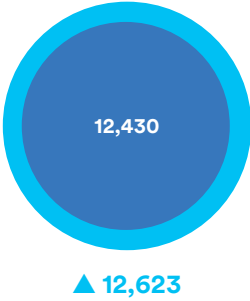
newsletter subscribers



resource downloads



social media followers



program audience  
geographic distribution



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## High Rise / Low Carbon: Multifamily Deep Retrofits



BE-Ex, Level Infrastructure, and Sustainable Energy Partnerships held a panel discussion + live Q&A on the findings from our latest report, *High Rise | Low Carbon Multifamily*, sponsored by NYSERDA, which examined the challenges and opportunities for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in tall residential buildings.

This event is a continuation of the High Rise / Low Carbon series, which aims to advance the decarbonization of New York's existing buildings by sharing low-carbon retrofit success stories and making key connections among the real estate, construction, engineering, and design communities.

# WISE Celebrates Ten Year Anniversary

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This year, BE-Ex's Women in Sustainability and Energy (WISE) series is celebrating its tenth anniversary!

Established in 2015 by the women of BE-Ex, the WISE series has grown as an inclusive platform that strives to advance equity in the workplace, featuring more than 115 women leaders and welcoming more than 3,300 in-person and online attendees at WISE events.

To celebrate this milestone, we are launching the WISE 10x10 Campaign, a fundraiser to raise \$10,000 to commemorate 10 years of impact. All contributions will help ensure WISE can continue to deliver high-quality, effective programming!

<https://www.freefunder.com/campaign/wise-10x10>

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**April 2, 2025**

**WISE: Sustainable Career  
Showcase**

This event will highlight five diverse voices from a range of industries, offering insights to early and transitioning professionals who want to learn more about different sustainability career paths. The panel event will be followed by a networking reception.



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**April 17, 2025**

**Earth Week Kickoff:  
Networking Evening**

Building Energy Exchange and Energy by 5 are hosting a round of speaker presentations covering real world compliance examples across a range of building types.

The presentations will be followed by a live Q&A session and open networking with refreshments.

► <https://be-exchange.org/earth-week-kickoff-networking-evening/>

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**May 7, 2025**

**Book Talk: Climate-Driven  
Design I**

Join us for a special Book Talk featuring thought-leader and MIT professor, Christoph Reinhart, author of Climate-Driven Design I. In this exciting moderated program, Reinhart will explore the pressing challenges facing the global building sector: rapid population growth, more frequent extreme weather events, and the urgent need to achieve carbon-neutral buildings.

**Climate-Driven Design I**  
**Building Energy Use**  
**Climate and Comfort**  
**Passive Design Strategies**  
**Christoph Reinhart**

► <https://be-exchange.org/book-talk-climate-driven-design/>

## completed

### training

## NYC Housing Preservation and Development Passive House Primer Training



### Passive House Primer Training



Building Energy Exchange delivered the first of several trainings as part of the NYC HPD Passive House Training Series. The Primer Training is designed to help HPD teams learn about the fundamental principles of Passive House, focusing on its application within the context of New York City. The training focuses on how Passive House design aligns with local energy regulations and, using case studies, highlights real-world performance impacts, financing, and benefits of pursuing certification under the standard. The next live delivery of the Primer will take place in Fall 2025.

## Climate Mobilization Act: Affordable Housing Training

This educational initiative aimed to demystify NYC's Climate Mobilization Act and its impact on the affordable housing sector. The training provides actionable information to affordable housing building owners, managers, project teams, and other stakeholders on how to comply with local laws, connect with relevant financing resources, and develop decarbonization master plans for their properties. The latest round of live deliveries were completed in March 2025, while the on-demand version of the course remains available on BE-Ex Ed.



► <https://be-exchange.org/climate-mobilization-act-series/>

## upcoming

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### resource

#### Strategic Decarbonization Planning Series

This comprehensive, three-part training series, created in collaboration with RMI, Ember Strategies, and supported by NYSERDA, is designed to help industry professionals tackle complex retrofit projects with confidence. Tailored for professionals in engineering, real estate, and technology, the training series will equip participants with the tools and knowledge to drive practical, cost-effective low-carbon retrofits in large buildings. Live deliveries are being offered in May and June 2025.

#### Resource Mapping Exercise



### resource

#### BPS PATH: Hub Survey

BE-Ex is embarking on an initiative with the Institute for Market Transformation (IMT) entitled the Building Performance Standard Pathway Alternatives & Training Hubs (BPS PATH) project to develop customizable tools and training to help existing buildings across the nation meet their local BPS requirements. To guide the scope of the new resources, the team began by surveying regional hubs of the [Building Performance Partnership](#) to gather insights regarding compliance barriers, challenging building typologies to decarbonize, and current resource gaps in their jurisdictions.

programs

How & When? Clean Heat and Climate-Friendly Homes for All

January 16

Decarbonizing Your Building Workshop – D24

January 27

BE-Ex & WISE 2025 Winter Soirée

February 4

Decarbonizing Your Building Workshop – D18

February 10

Climate Mobilization Act Series: Affordable Housing Training

March 11

HPD Passive House Primer

March 12

High Rise / Low Carbon: Multifamily Deep Retrofits

March 12

Speakable Series: Three Presentation Secrets

March 13

project status

Q1 2025

- Climate Mobilization Act: Affordable Housing Training - Ongoing Delivery

ongoing

- Building Performance Partnership: Hubs Support
- Future Housing Initiative: Data Tools & Pilot
- HPD Passive House Training
- Empire Building Challenge Knowledge Platform
- Empire Building Challenge Training Series
- Decarbonizing New York City Office Primer Trainings
- Decarbonizing Your Building Workshops
- Building Performance Standard Pathway Alternatives & Training Hubs (BPS PATH)
- Co-ops & Condo LL97 Education Campaign