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The Department of Energy, in collaboration with the National League of Cities and the National Association of State Energy Officials, is launching a data-sharing program aimed at enhancing energy efficiency in buildings and lowering costs throughout the U.S. This program, known as the SEED Collaborative, will utilize open-source software (the Standard Energy Efficiency Data Platform) developed by the DOE to manage and channel energy data collected from various sources, primarily buildings. It allows the users to track their energy usage by providing a wide range of building metrics; the software also enables the users to graph their energy consumption.

Currently, cities use a variety of data management sources, which can produce errors and be costly. The SEED Initiative's purpose is to provide software that will standardize the format of energy consumption data. Sources: eenews