



Quick Facts: ENERGY STAR Commercial Buildings Program For Automated Benchmarking Providers

Overview of the ENERGY STAR Commercial Buildings Program

- [ENERGY STAR](#) is a voluntary U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) program that helps businesses and individuals protect the environment through superior energy performance.
- ENERGY STAR is an influential and trusted brand recognized by over 75 percent of the public.
- The [commercial buildings program](#) has helped over 200,000 buildings benchmark their energy performance and more than 12,600 have earned EPA's ENERGY STAR certification.

EPA's Energy Performance Score System and Portfolio Manager

- EPA's [energy performance score system](#) offers building managers a standardized, comparable metric for building energy efficiency.
- Building managers can enter building operating characteristics and a year of utility bills into EPA's online benchmarking tool, [Portfolio Manager](#), to receive a 1-to-100 score to indicate how the building compares to similar buildings nationwide – similar to the miles per gallon rating for automobiles.
 - A score of 50 indicates that the building is performing at the industry average.
 - A building with a score of 75 or higher is eligible to earn the [ENERGY STAR label](#).
- Energy performance scores are available for the following 15 space types representing over 50% of the commercial building space nationwide.
 - [Bank/Financial Institution](#)
 - [House of Worship](#)
 - [Residence Hall/Dormitory](#)
 - [Courthouse](#)
 - [K-12 School](#)
 - [Retail Store](#)
 - [Data Centers](#)
 - [Medical Office](#)
 - [Senior Care](#)
 - [Hospital \(acute care and children's\)](#)
 - [Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plant](#)
 - [Supermarket](#)
 - [Hotel](#)
 - [Office](#)
 - [Warehouse \(refrigerated and non-refrigerated\)](#)
- Portfolio Manager calculates [greenhouse gas emissions](#) (including carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide) and aligns its methodology with the requirements for most inventory and reporting programs.
- Buildings with space types not in these categories, listed under "other," can still use Portfolio Manager for emissions data and to benchmark using a weather-normalized energy intensity (kBtu per sq. ft.).
- Increasingly state and local governments are incorporating ENERGY STAR benchmarking into [energy disclosure policies and voluntary benchmarking campaigns](#).

Automated Benchmarking to Receive Scores

- [Automated benchmarking](#) enables the transfer of data from energy service providers into Portfolio Manager over the Internet using web services and XML.
 - It facilitates an easy initial upload of all building and energy data into Portfolio Manager and can eliminate the need for manual data input into Portfolio Manager.
 - Providers can also map to and update or edit existing buildings in Portfolio Manager and export data for existing buildings in Portfolio Manager.
- Energy performance scores can be updated automatically on a monthly basis to keep benchmarking data current and can be viewed in the energy service provider's energy information product and Portfolio Manager.
- Benchmarking a building portfolio can help clients prioritize portfolio-wide improvements and identify [opportunities for recognition](#).