

Dear Rating Host Participant,

Thank you for your continued participation in ENERGY STAR's Automated Benchmarking Pilot Initiative. We are excited at the number of ratings that are already being delivered through energy information service providers, and ENERGY STAR Partners that currently use Portfolio Manager (our pilot target audience) have responded enthusiastically to the opportunity to get ratings through their energy information vendors.

Included in this email are some updates on the initiative:

System Enhancements

We appreciate the input we have received from hosts thus far and we have been working on defining post-pilot requirements that incorporate these comments. In the meantime, we have established the ability for your customers to obtain ENERGY STAR recognition by labeling their Energy Star qualifying buildings, and participating in the new ENERGY STAR Leaders program. To keep things simple, this will be facilitated during the pilot phase within Portfolio Manager. After the pilot we will enable you to facilitate ENERGY STAR recognition for your customers without requiring them to use Portfolio Manager.

Customer Relationships

Attached is a draft form that we developed to help manage the relationship between existing Portfolio Manager accounts and the data you are sending via XML. This form should be used with customers that already have buildings in Portfolio Manager that you are also tracking, and will allow us to reconcile data between the two systems. Please provide this form to customers that you are moving toward automated ratings, and provide feedback regarding how we might make this process easier.

Thanks to those of you that are already working with us to reconcile Portfolio Manager and XML data streams, as this is what is required to maximize the value of a transition to automated ratings.

Updated User's Guide

Also attached is the latest User's Guide which includes updated FAQs, a description of new protocol for requesting deletions, revised text differentiating between "participants" and "organizations," and the sample XML schema.

Be sure to keep us informed of any progress you are making. We are here to support you through this process and appreciate any opportunity to work more closely with our participants.

If you have any questions or comments on the initiative, feel free to contact Sarah O'Connell at soconnell@icfconsulting.com.

Sincerely,
National Energy Performance Rating System Support