About ENERGY STAR®
Buildings – 2018

About ENERGY STAR for the Commercial Buildings

Businesses embrace ENERGY STAR for the same reasons that consumers do: it’s a widely recognized symbol of energy efficiency, translating technical details into simple, credible, and actionable information. ENERGY STAR tools and resources help businesses determine the most cost-effective approach to managing energy use in their buildings and plants—enabling the private sector to save energy, increase profits, and strengthen their competitiveness. Thousands of diverse organizations across the nation—from Fortune 100® companies and major league sports teams to school districts and small businesses—have partnered with EPA to improve their facilities’ energy performance.

Portfolio Manager and the 1 – 100 ENERGY STAR score

Commercial buildings have embraced EPA’s energy measurement and tracking tool, ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager. In fact, in 2018 alone more than 270,000 commercial properties used EPA’s ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager tool to measure and track their energy use, water use, and/or waste and materials. Owners of commercial buildings and industrial plants have also adopted EPA’s 1 – 100 ENERGY STAR score as the industry standard for measuring energy performance. Over the past five years, the number of buildings actively using Portfolio Manager to benchmark their energy performance increased by more than 30 percent and the amount of commercial building square footage actively benchmarked grew by more than 40 percent. Learn more.

The value of ENERGY STAR certification for buildings

In 2018, more than 8,100 commercial buildings earned the ENERGY STAR, bringing the total to more than 34,000. Buildings that earn the ENERGY STAR use, on average, 35 percent less energy than their peers. For commercial real estate, ENERGY STAR is a market differentiator. Studies find that ENERGY STAR certified buildings command a premium of up to 16 percent for sales prices and rental rates. Real estate companies use EPA’s 1 – 100 ENERGY STAR score to demonstrate their sustainability to investors through reporting frameworks such as the Global Real Estate Sustainability Benchmark (GRESB) and the Sustainability Accounting Standards Board (SASB) and multifamily property owners use it to access discounted financing through products offered by Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.
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Program savings

In 2017, the ENERGY STAR program for commercial buildings helped businesses and organizations save 160 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity, avoid $9 billion in energy costs, and achieve 110 million metric tons of greenhouse gas reductions.

Spotlight on: state and local benchmarking initiatives

As of the end of 2018, 29 local governments, three states, and one Canadian province rely on EPA’s ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager tool as the foundation for their building energy benchmarking requirements, creating uniformity for businesses and reducing transaction and implementation costs. Combined, these requirements apply to approximately 100,000 buildings, representing more than 10.8 billion square feet.

Additional local governments and states have required ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager in the benchmarking of their own facilities. Learn more.
EPA has new resources to help buildings uncover quick energy savings through energy treasure hunts. Using EPA’s guidebook, checklists, calculators, and other tools, energy teams spend 1-2 days inside their building hunting for treasure (in the form of preventable energy waste).

OSF HealthCare St. Joseph Medical Center in Bloomington, Illinois, embarked on an “ENERGY STAR Treasure Hunt” to discover potential energy savings within their hospital. Assisting in the effort were veteran treasure hunters from Bristol-Myers Squibb, an ENERGY STAR Partner of the Year Award winner, who helped to train the St. Joseph’s energy managers and conduct the treasure hunt. In the end, the team discovered more than $200,000 in potential energy savings. Paul Pederson, the hospital’s chief medical officer, noted that it would take a million dollars of revenue to earn an equal amount of profit.

For additional details about ENERGY STAR achievements see energystar.gov/numbers For ENERGY STAR facts and figures broken down geographically by state, see energystar.gov/statefacts. For achievements by ENERGY STAR Award Winners, see energystar.gov/awards.