

About ENERGY STAR® Buildings – 2020

The simple
choice for
energy
efficiency.



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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 boost 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 2020 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. These buildings comprise more than 25 billion square feet of floorspace—more than a quarter of all the commercial floorspace in the nation. 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%. The amount of commercial building square footage actively benchmarked grew by more than 40%.

The value of ENERGY STAR certification for buildings

In 2020 more than 6,400 buildings earned EPA's ENERGY STAR certification, bringing the total to close to 38,000. Buildings that earn the ENERGY STAR use, on average, 35% less energy than their peers. For commercial real estate, ENERGY STAR is a market differentiator. 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). 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.

Program savings

In 2019, the ENERGY STAR program for commercial buildings helped businesses and organizations save 230 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity, avoid \$14 billion in energy costs, and achieve 170 million metric tons of greenhouse gas reductions

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Spotlight on: state and local benchmarking initiatives

As of the end of 2020, 34 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 over 100,000 buildings, representing over 11 billion square feet.

Additional local governments and states have required ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager in the benchmarking of their own facilities.

[Learn more.](#)



Spotlight on: ENERGY STAR Tenant Space and Samsung

EPA launched ENERGY STAR Tenant Space in 2020, offering tenants an opportunity to receive recognition for energy efficient office spaces. This recognition requires that tenants meet energy efficient design criteria, and provides the opportunity for tenant-landlord collaboration around energy efficiency, leading to more efficient tenant spaces and a more efficient building as a whole.

Samsung Electronics is honored to be one of the first tenants to earn ENERGY STAR Tenant Space recognition for its office at 700 Pennsylvania Ave in Washington, DC. The Samsung Solutions Center opened in 2019 and serves as a multifunction office facility for Samsung employees. Achieving recognition for the space helps to drive awareness of ENERGY STAR among Samsung employees and the importance of Samsung's continued energy-efficiency efforts through its products and operations. According to Mark Newton, Samsung's head of Corporate Sustainability for North America, pursuing energy efficiency and recognition for leased spaces is of utmost importance to the company's energy management strategy. Samsung has identified the new Tenant Space recognition and whole building ENERGY STAR certification as critical elements in its preferred site selection criteria.

For additional details about ENERGY STAR achievements see [ENERGY STAR Impacts](#).

For ENERGY STAR facts and figures broken down geographically by state, see [ENERGY STAR State Fact Sheets](#).

For achievements by ENERGY STAR Award Winners, see the [ENERGY STAR Award Winners Page](#).