ENERGY STAR® Buildings Support for State and Local Governments

The simple choice for energy efficiency.

ENERGY STAR

The ENERGY STAR® Commercial and Industrial Branch is part of the U.S. EPA's vision to capture and channel marketplace ingenuity to promote energy efficiency and prevent pollution. It is a proactive program that serves as a partnership among private and public sector organizations and the federal government. Through ENERGY STAR, EPA offers state and local governments a proven platform for saving energy, stimulating economic growth, and encouraging energy efficiency within the community. EPA provides off-the-shelf resources that are ready to be tailored to meet your energy and environmental goals.

ENERGY STAR Buildings can support state and local governments with:

- **Benchmarking government-owned and -leased buildings in Portfolio Manager®**

    If your government hasn't yet benchmarked its buildings in Portfolio Manager, ENERGY STAR can get you up to speed on how the tool works and how you can use it to assess how much energy, water, and waste and materials your buildings are using. We'll help you understand performance metrics such as energy and water use intensity and greenhouse gas emissions, support improvement efforts, and earn a publicly recognized certification for top performance. Often, state and local governments seek to 'lead by example' by demonstrating the economic and environmental benefits of benchmarking, making cost-effective improvements, and achieving certification for eligible properties. Offices, courthouses, K-12 schools, wastewater treatment plants, and other property types common to state and local governments are on the list of property types eligible for 1-100 ENERGY STAR scores, many of which are also eligible for ENERGY STAR certification. For property types that aren't eligible for 1-100 ENERGY STAR scores, Portfolio Manager calculates property-specific national medians.

- **Using Portfolio Manager for program and policy implementation**

    As of the end of 2018, 29 local governments, three states, and one Canadian province use Portfolio Manager to collect data from commercial and/or multifamily building owners and managers through benchmarking and disclosure policies. Many also use Portfolio Manager as the backbone of voluntary benchmarking competitions or campaigns. The number of state and local governments implementing programs and policies continues to expand, as does the type of programs and policies they are implementing. You can view the universe of initiatives easily using EPA's interactive map available at www.energystar.gov/programsandpolicies.

Figure 1. Interactive map of programs and policies leveraging Portfolio Manager. CTRL+ click to access the map.

ENERGY STAR supports state and local governments implementing programs and policies by:
- Discussing plans and reviewing draft policies to ensure these can be implemented as intended using Portfolio Manager.
- Training staff and volunteers on how to use Portfolio Manager so that they can 1) benchmark their own buildings and 2) train building owners and managers in their jurisdictions on how to use the tool.

United States Environmental Protection Agency

- o Creating a summary of Portfolio Manager benchmarking and certification data in a state or local jurisdiction, to demonstrate current Portfolio Manager usage.
- o Strategizing with staff on how to best engage building owners and managers, and promoting initiatives, training sessions, and other opportunities that the state and local governments are offering to Portfolio Manager users and ENERGY STAR partners in their area.
- o Demonstrating how to set up a data request template for collecting data and sharing recommended metrics to collect based on what other program administrators have found to be useful.
- o Programming a unique ID field into Portfolio Manager so that the state or local government can verify compliance and connect submitted data to their existing datasets.
- o Sharing the raw video and script files from our demonstration videos, so that you can edit and repurpose them with compliance information specific to your requirements.

- **Developing and Implementing Efficiency Programs**

    ENERGY STAR regularly shares updates with state and local governments on additional tools, resources, and program offerings that could support their efforts around developing and implementing efficiency programs. Examples include:

    - o A series of PowerPoint modules that explain how utility companies can develop solutions that make benchmarking easier by offering automated input of consumption data, aggregated at a building level, into users' Portfolio Manager accounts.
    - o Guidance on using EPA's Licensed Professional Finder to develop a local directory of Professional Engineers and Registered Architects that have verified ENERGY STAR certifications.

Fig 2. Cover of an Activity Kit. CTRL+ click to learn more.

    - o Support with developing estimates of the health benefits achieved through efficiency initiatives.
    - o The opportunity for local governments to co-brand the ENERGY STAR Action Workbooks for small businesses and congregations.
    - o Resources to make hosting a competition easier, such as the Building Competition Guide, Data Management Guide and Competitor Data Tracker spreadsheet, and communications-focused activity kits and planning resources. State and local governments often host competitions to engage stakeholders and the community around benchmarking, demonstrating its value and recognizing participants.
    - o Support related to the use and disclosure of reported data, including 1-100 ENERGY STAR scores, monthly natural gas and electricity consumption metrics, and more.
    - o Providing information about companies that exchange data with Portfolio Manager via web services, including on those that are highlighted on our "most active" list for supporting the most benchmarking in the past year.

To learn more, please contact:
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