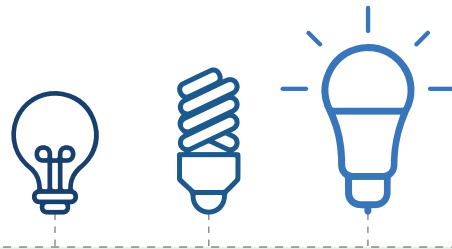


## Building Energy Benchmarking Program Commercial Buildings



**California's Building Energy Benchmarking Program** requires the owners of buildings to report energy use data every year to the California Energy Commission (CEC). This information is shared on the CEC website for building owners and operators to compare their building's energy use to other similar buildings and take action to improve the energy efficiency of their building, reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and lower their utility bills.

### *Who has to benchmark their building under this program?*

Owners of large commercial and multifamily buildings in California with more than 50,000 square feet of gross floor area are required to report energy use every year by June 1.

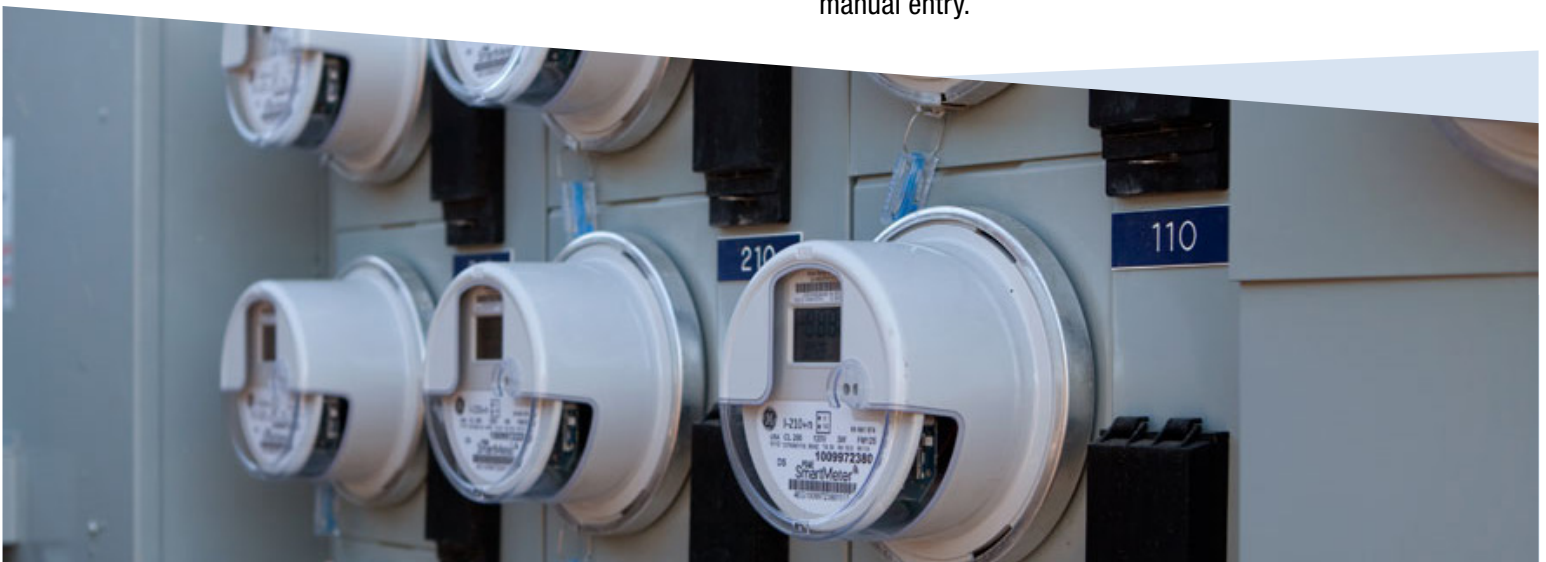
### *What do building owners need to do to comply?*

Building owners enter energy use data and physical/operational characteristics - square footage, use type, hours of operation - into ENERGY STAR® Portfolio Manager, a free online tool, and submit it to the CEC via the reporting link at the CEC's [Building Energy Benchmarking Program](#) webpage.

**Utilities in California are required to provide energy use data to building owners, owners' agents, and operators for most buildings.**

### *How do building owners get energy use data for their buildings?*

Utilities in California are required to provide energy use data to building owners, owners' agents, and operators for most buildings. Contact your utility provider for steps to take. In addition, energy use can be retrieved from utility bills and accounts for manual entry.



### *What do I need to do in ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager?*

1. Go to the [ENERGY STAR](https://www.energystar.gov) website.
2. Create a Portfolio Manager account.
3. Enter all buildings for which compliance is required.
4. Create meters for energy use data.
5. Upload or enter energy use data.
6. Submit your building data to the CEC via the appropriate reporting link at the [Building Energy Benchmarking Program](https://www.energy.ca.gov/programs-and-services/building-energy-benchmarking-program) webpage.

### *What are the exceptions to reporting?*

The following building types do not need to be benchmarked:

- Buildings with 1 to 16 residential utility accounts
- Condominiums
- Buildings with more than half of the gross floor area used for scientific experiments requiring controlled environments, or for manufacturing or industrial purposes
- Buildings scheduled to be demolished one year or less from the reporting date

### *How does this affect compliance with local benchmarking requirements?*

The cities of Berkeley, Brisbane, Los Angeles, San Diego, San Francisco, and San Jose have state-approved benchmarking programs that align or go beyond state requirements. Buildings within these jurisdictions only need to fulfill the requirements of their local jurisdictions.

### *Where can I learn more?*

For more information, contact the Benchmarking Hotline at [Benchmarking@energy.ca.gov](mailto:benchmarking@energy.ca.gov) or 855-279-6460.

**“Public access to building energy information helps markets operate more effectively.”**  
**- CEC Commissioner Andrew McAllister**



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