

Building Energy Benchmarking Program

FACT SHEET

FOR MULTIFAMILY BUILDINGS

Beginning in 2019, the owners of certain multifamily buildings are required to benchmark their buildings and report energy use data to the California Energy Commission. The purpose of the program is to help building owners, tenants, and others better understand the energy consumption of their buildings.

Why benchmark?

Benchmarking provides a baseline understanding of a building's energy use, and may lead a building owner to perform further information gathering (such as an audit) that can help prioritize building improvements.

What do building owners need to do to comply?

Benchmarking requires combining energy bills with basic physical and operational characteristics of a building (such as size, use type, and hours of operation). Building owners enter this information into a free online tool—the U.S. EPA's ENERGY STAR® Portfolio Manager—that generates a score to track building performance over time and compare performance against that of peer buildings, and submit their information to the California Energy Commission.

By when do building owners need to comply?

Building owners must submit their reports to the Energy Commission by June 1 annually (as described below).

What will the Energy Commission do with the data it receives?

The Energy Commission will post energy performance information for reported multifamily buildings beginning in 2020.



The Building Energy Benchmarking Program will help you better understand your energy usage.

Are any buildings exempt?

Reporting is not required for buildings with 1 to 16 residential units, condominiums, or buildings scheduled to be demolished one year or less from the reporting deadline.

Who has to benchmark their building under the Building Energy Benchmarking Program?

DISCLOSABLE BUILDING TYPE

**MORE THAN 50,000 SQUARE FEET,
MORE THAN 16 UNITS**

REPORTING DEADLINE

JUNE 1 ANNUALLY
(PRIOR YEAR'S DATA)

FIRST BUILDING-LEVEL PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

2020
(2019 DATA)

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

Energy utilities in California are required to provide monthly building-level energy use data for the previous calendar year to a building owner or owner's agent upon request. For a building with five or more residential units, a utility must provide this data without requiring customer permission. Please contact your utility for their data request process.

How does this affect compliance with local benchmarking requirements?

For buildings that must comply with a local benchmarking requirement, local jurisdictions can apply for an exemption from the Energy Commission. If this exemption is granted, building owners under that local requirement only need to follow their local reporting instructions; the administrator of the local program will transmit this information to the Energy Commission. To see a list of the local benchmarking programs that have received an exemption, go to www.energy.ca.gov/benchmarking and click "Exempted Local Benchmarking Ordinances."

What are the steps to benchmark a building and report it to the Energy Commission?

1. Create a Portfolio Manager account at www.energystar.gov/buildings/facility-owners-and-managers/existing-buildings/use-portfolio-manager.
2. Enter building information and energy use data for all buildings for which compliance is required and run the Data Quality Checker.
3. Click the appropriate reporting link at www.energy.ca.gov/benchmarking.
4. Log into Portfolio Manager and follow the instructions to submit your report.

Do I need to benchmark my building?

Does your building have more than 16 residential units and more than 50,000 square feet of gross floor area?*

YES

NO

Have you reported to a local benchmarking program that has received an exemption from the Energy Commission?

YES

NOT REQUIRED
You are not required to report to the Energy Commission.

NO

REQUIRED

You are required to report to the Energy Commission.

*Reporting is also required for buildings with no residential units and more than 50,000 square feet of gross floor area.

Where can I learn more?

For more information about the Building Energy Benchmarking Program, visit the Energy Commission's benchmarking page at www.energy.ca.gov/benchmarking.

For questions regarding how to comply, contact the Benchmarking Hotline (contact information below).

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