

# Benchmarking and Building Performance Standards in Cincinnati: Progress update

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# Benchmarking and Building Performance Standards



## Data

### *Benchmarking*

- Collect data
- Compare to peers
- Publicly disclose
- ~6-10% savings



## Action

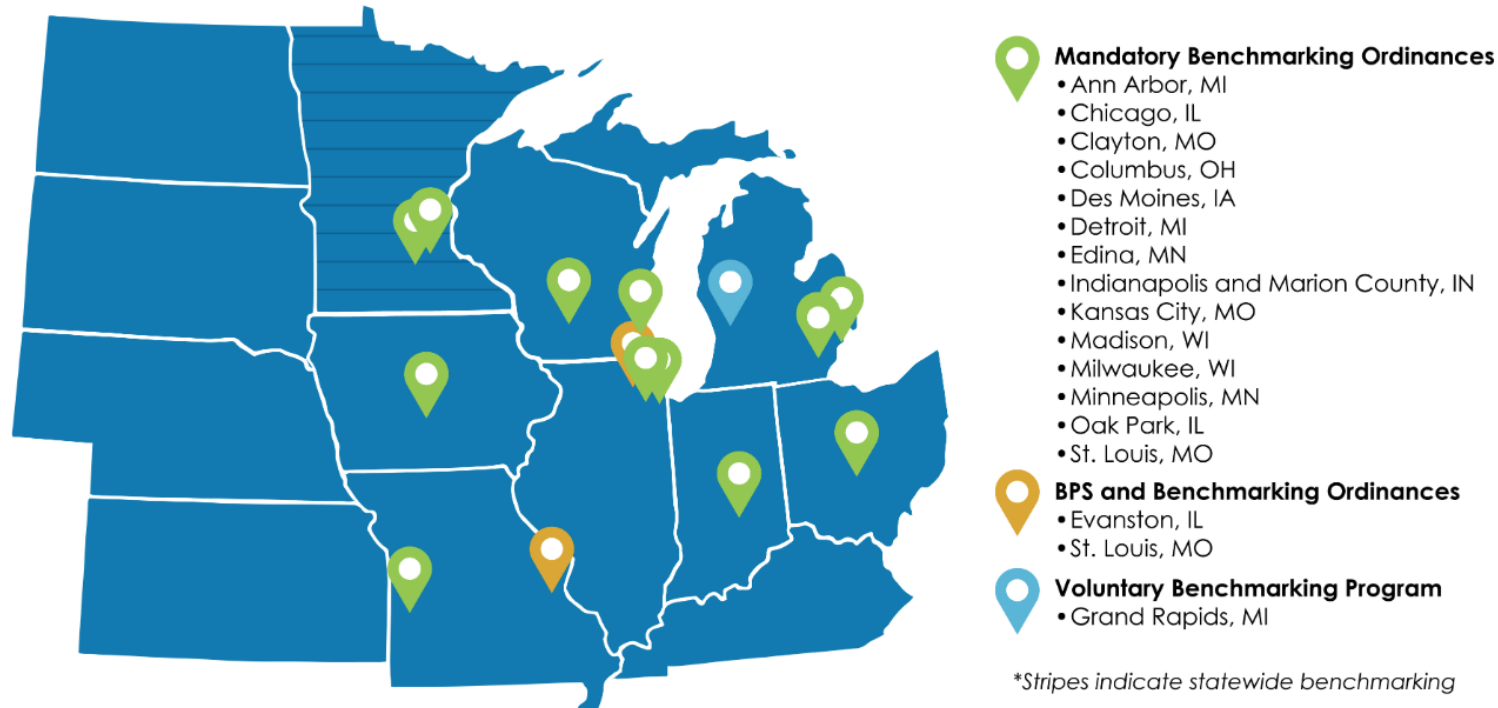
### *Building Performance Standards*

- Set performance target
- Action to meet target
- Technical and financial support for action
- ~25-45 aggregate savings<sup>1,2</sup>

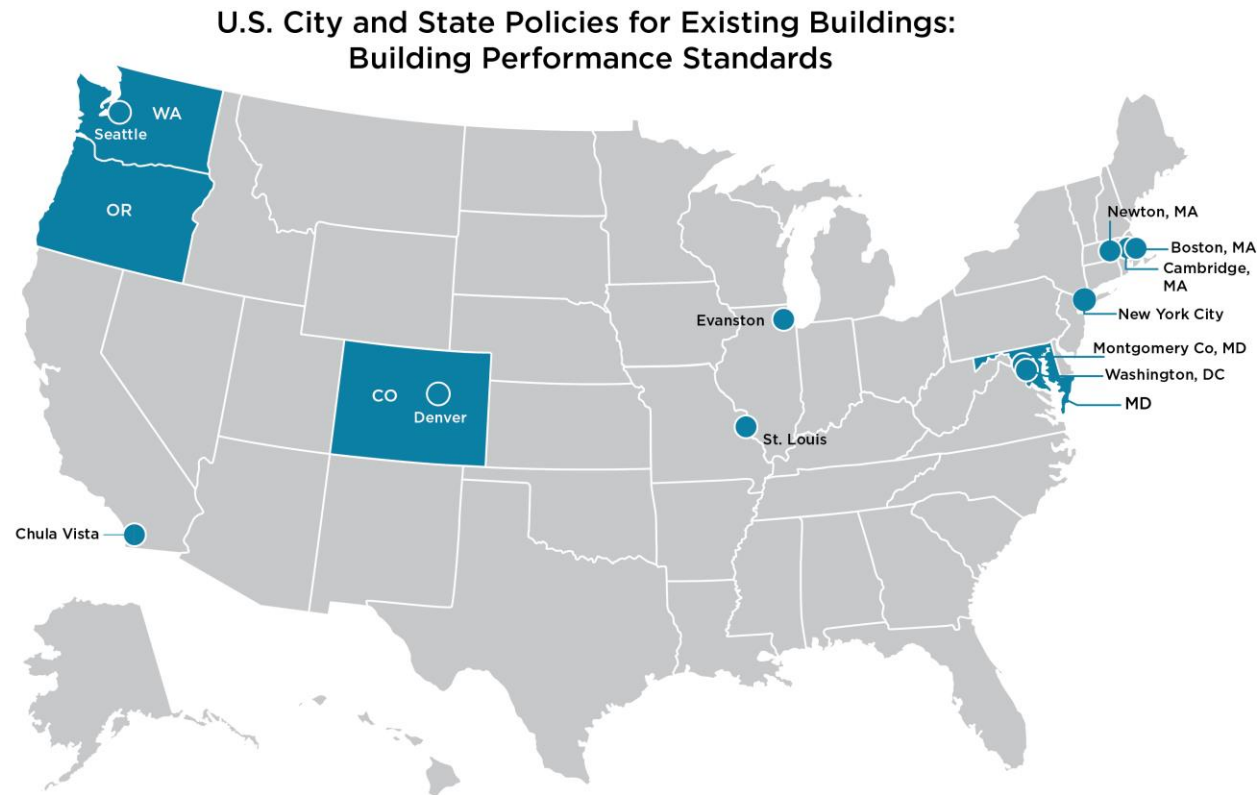
<sup>1</sup>A.L. Webb, C. McConnell, Evaluating the feasibility of achieving building performance standards targets, Energy and Buildings. (2023) 112989. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.enbuild.2023.112989>.

<sup>2</sup>S. Nadel and A. Hinge, "Mandatory building performance standards: A key policy for achieving climate goals," ACEEE, 2020. <https://www.aceee.org/white-paper/2020/06/mandatory-building-performance-standards-key-policy-achieving-climate-goals>

# Several Midwest jurisdictions have enacted Benchmarking & BPS standards to meet their climate goals



# 15 jurisdictions around the country have enacted a BPS as a key strategy to meet their climate goals



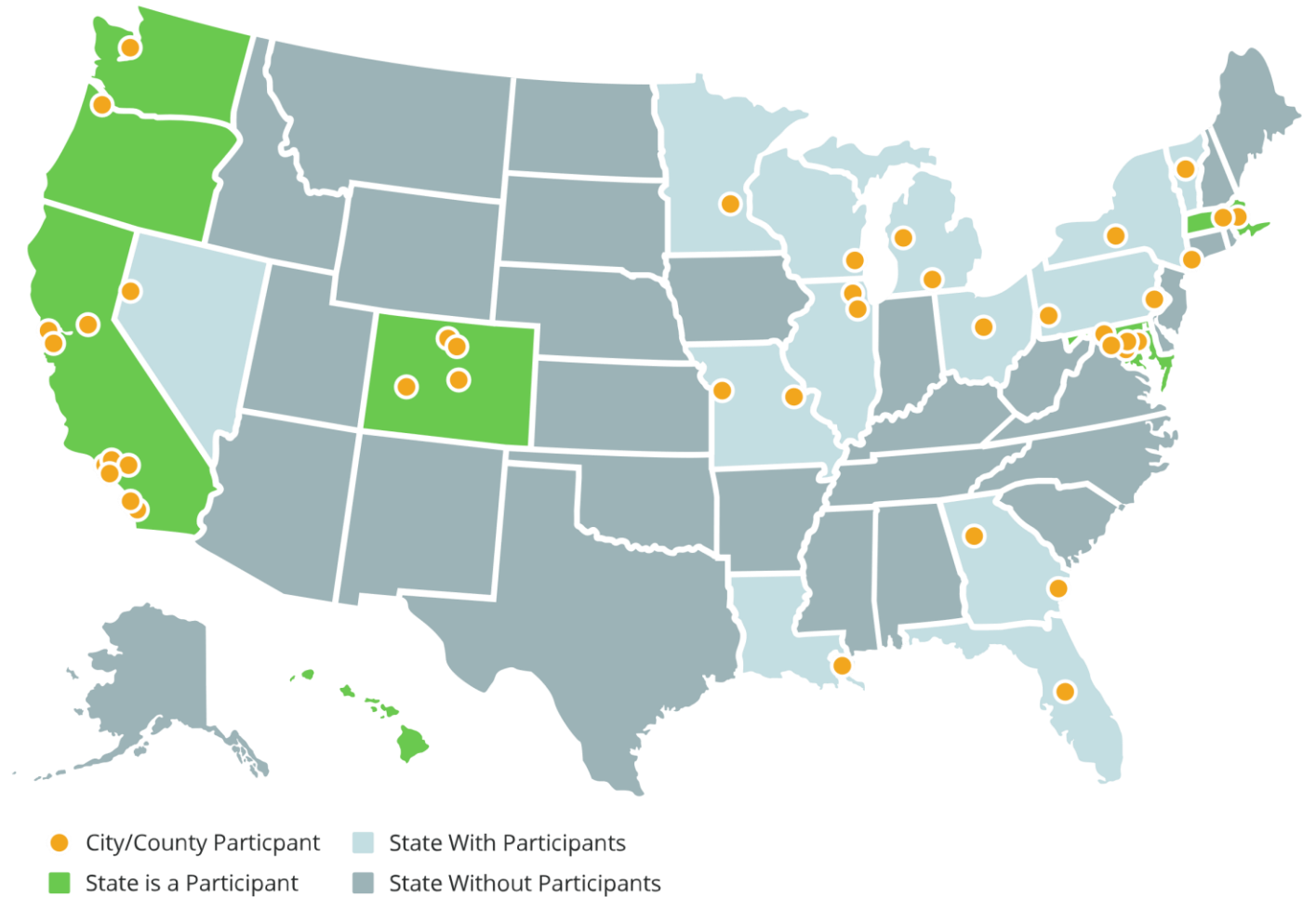
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**MAP:** <https://www.imt.org/resources/map-building-performance-standards/>  
**COMPARISON MATRIX:** <https://www.imt.org/resources/comparison-of-u-s-building-performance-standards/>  
<https://www.imt.org/public-policy/building-performance-standards/>

# National BPS Coalition

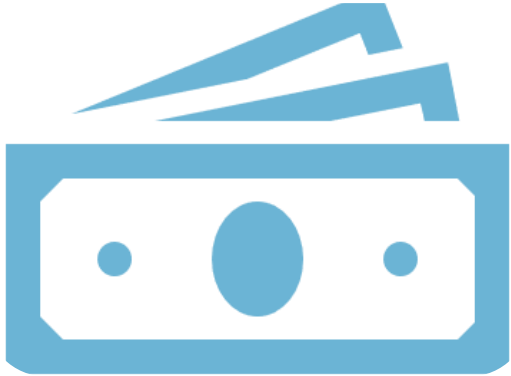
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- Group of state and local governments committed to designing and implement BPS policies
- 48 jurisdictions as of May 2025



Source: <https://nationalbpscoalition.org/>

# Benefits of Higher Performance Buildings



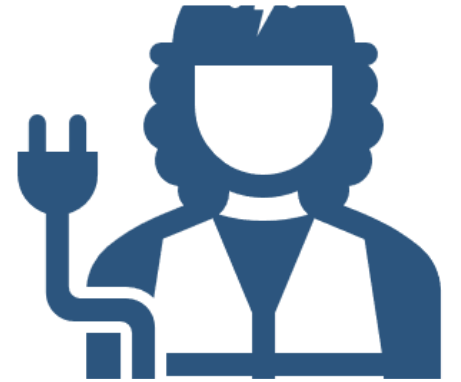
Lower utility and maintenance costs and less risk from energy price volatility



Increase property values

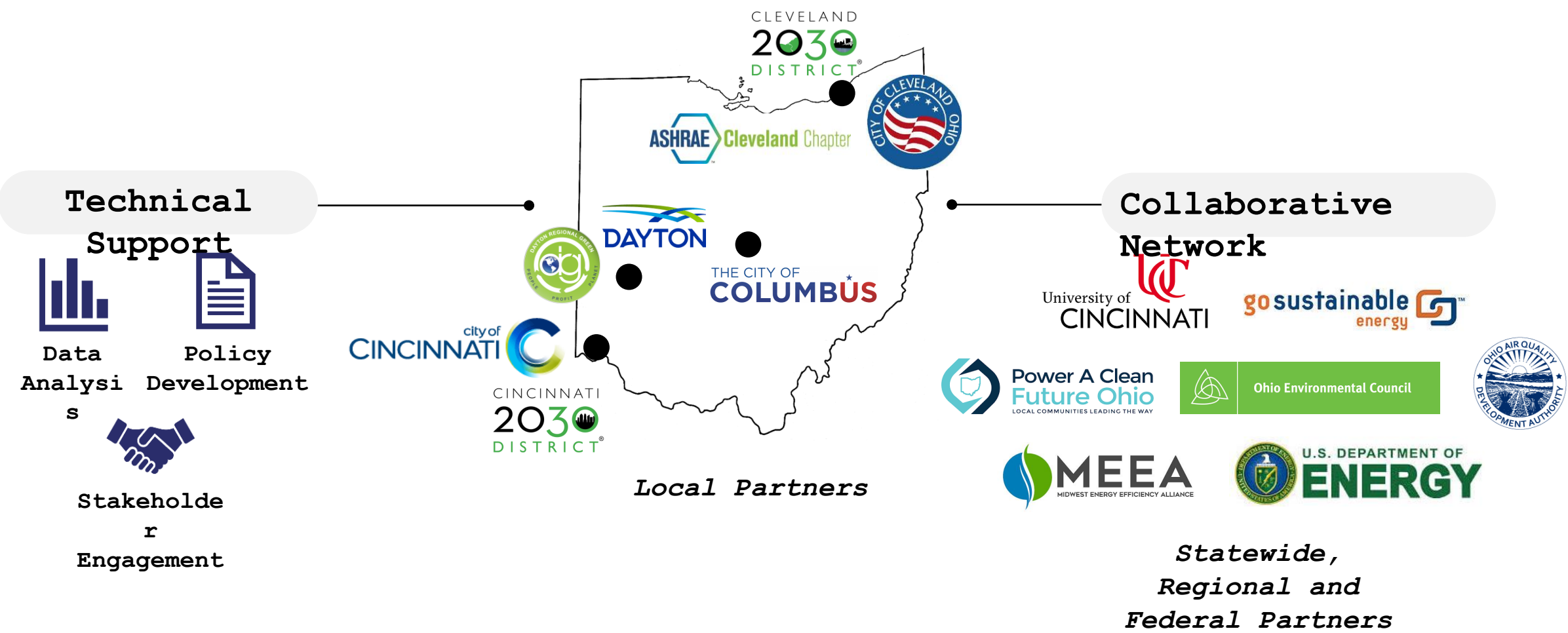


Improve health and productivity of occupants



Create local jobs

# Ohio's Resilient and Efficient Codes Implementation (RECI) project has built a BPS collaborative



# What progress have we made so far in

**Cincinnati?** *The timeline has now been set.*

## Data Analysis

- Very large dataset of energy use for all Cincy bldgs.
- Retrofit cost estimates for Cincy (*anticipated late June*)
- Identified data management software portal (*setting up*)
- Developed BPS Implementation Plan

## Stakeholder Engagement

- Developed Stakeholder Engagement Plan
- Biweekly meetings with OES, 2030 District, OEC
- Two meetings with EAB
- One-on-one engagement with select property owners

## Policy Development

- In-depth research on legal pathways for BPS in Ohio
- Existing and emerging financial support programs
- Opportunities for workforce development
- BPS economic impacts study (*anticipated late June*)



# What are the key BPS policy development components?

*The city will need to answer the following:*

## **Determines overall savings from BPS:**

1. **Scope:** What buildings are included in the scope?
2. **Metric:** What metric is used to measure performance?
3. **Targets:** What are the performance targets?
4. **Timeframe:** What is the timeline for rollout and compliance?

## **Impacts implementation of BPS:**

5. **Incentives/Penalties:** What incentives are available for compliance? What are the penalties for non-compliance?
6. **Special Cases:** Which buildings are exempt? Which buildings receive special support?
7. **Administration:** Where does this live in city code? Who manages and enforces it?

# What do these components look like elsewhere?

*Examples from other jurisdictions show a range of possibilities.*

City	Scope	Metric	Targets	Timeframe
St. Louis, MO	Commercial and multifamily buildings ≥ 50,000 ft <sup>2</sup>	Site energy use intensity (EUI)	Initial target set no lower than the 65 <sup>th</sup> (high) percentile by property type, recalculated after each compliance cycle	Compliance cycle every four years
Boston, MA	Commercial and multifamily buildings ≥ 20,000 ft <sup>2</sup>	GHG Intensity	Targets set to achieve a 50% total emissions reduction in covered buildings by 2030 and 100% reduction by 2050	Compliance cycle every five years
Denver, CO	Commercial and multifamily buildings ≥ 25,000 ft <sup>2</sup>	Weather normalize d Site EUI	Targets set for 2030 such that 30% total energy savings across all covered buildings is achieved	Interim performance targets in 2024 and 2027 with final target in

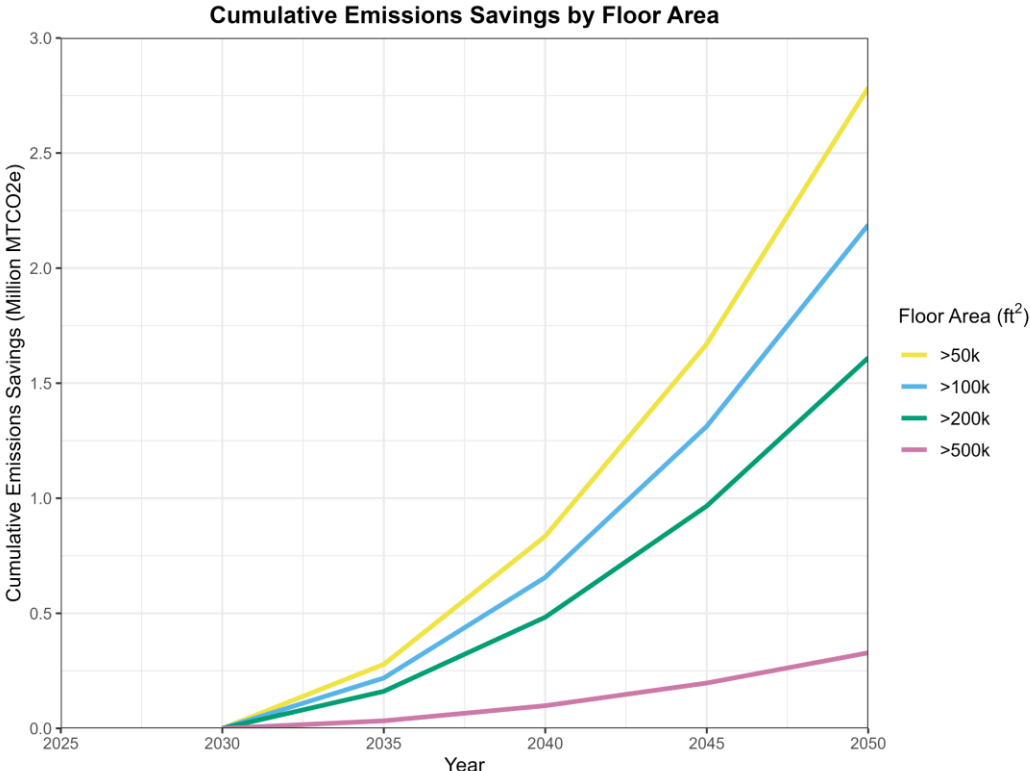
# How can the data inform the policy decisions?

Stakeholder engagement will leverage the data to explore potential BPS designs.

## Buildings >50k ft<sup>2</sup>

Floor Area (ft <sup>2</sup> )	Count* (Cumulative)	% Bldg. Emissions (Cumulative)
>500k	23	7%
200k-499k	118 (141)	15% (22%)
100k-199k	211 (352)	10% (31%)
50k-99k	365 (717)	9% (40%)

*\*Draft count based on Hamilton County Auditor data*





## Stakeholder Outreach To Date

- ❑ Initial focus on Members/Affiliates of 2030 District
  - Some history/familiarity with benchmarking
- ❑ Diversity of economic sectors
  - Business
  - Non-profit
  - Education
  - Municipal
- q Diversity of roles
  - Owners
  - Managers
  - Service providers (engineering, design, energy services)



## Stakeholder Feedback To Date

- ❑ Only minimally familiar with BPS
  - Educational component will be important
- ❑ Generally appreciative for...
  - being made aware of this conversation
  - invitation to provide feedback (but not everyone wants to participate)
- q Generally curious, but non-committal

# Cincinnati BPS Working Group

- 30-40 members to provide technical expertise from local stakeholders on BPS elements
- Will include representation from (including, but not limited to) the following:
  - Commercial building owners and managers
  - Building, Planning, Zoning departments
  - Utilities
  - Energy efficiency or renewable energy services
  - Affordable and/or multi-family housing
  - Environmental and non-profits
  - Workforce & economic development entities
  - Community-based organizations
- June 2025 – Kickoff meeting and BPS overview
- July 2025 – Working meeting on scope, metric, targets, and timeline of BPS
- August 2025 – Working meeting on compliance, incentives, and support