



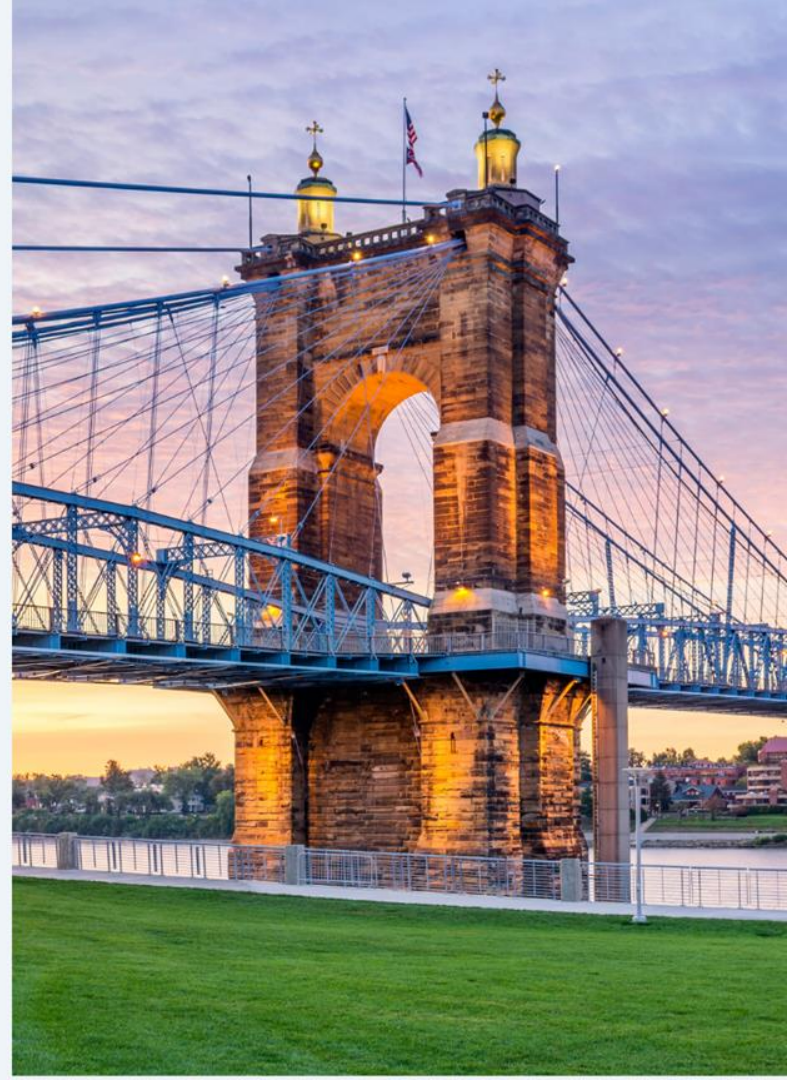
CINCINNATI
2030 
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A Case Study in the Benefits and Challenges of Energy Benchmarking



What is the Cincinnati 2030 District?

- Local chapter of a nationwide network.
- Most Members own or operate commercial building space - critical focal point for both climate mitigation and economic competitiveness
- Originally focused on discrete geographic footprint in downtown core - since expanded





2030 District Commitments & Goals

- Members commit to reducing their overall energy consumption, water consumption, and transportation related emissions
- The name - “2030 District” - comes from the original self-imposed deadline for achieving major reductions in all these areas
- Goals: 50% reductions in all areas by 2030 (against 2002 baseline)
- Note: Cincinnati 2030 District has a 4th pillar of action: occupant health.

Building Members of the Cincinnati 2030 District

- 3 categories of membership:
 - Building Members
 - Professional Partners
 - Community Partners
- Building Members are a diverse group - range from very small to very large.
- Large members include some of the largest corporations and institutions in our community. (e.g. Kroger, P&G, Fifth 3rd Bank, University of Cincinnati, Xavier University, Northern Kentucky University, the City of Cincinnati, and many others.)
- In total, the Cincinnati 2030 District represents more than 28 million square feet of commercial building space



Other Members: Professional Partners and Community Partners

- Other membership categories are equally critical to success of the 2030 District:
- Professional Partners: Engineering and Design firms with the expertise to help our Building Members analyze their current energy usage, create actions plans, and achieve targeted improvements.
- Community Partners consist largely of non-profit organizations, community groups, and advocacy groups that broadly support 2030 District goals and activities.
- Note: Numerous organizations fall into more than one membership category.



Benchmarking in the 2030 District

- Upon joining the 2030 District, all Building Members commit to benchmarking their energy and water usage in ESPM and sharing with 2030 District.
- Important: 2030 District aggregates data and reports on overall District performance, but keeps individual Member energy data confidential



Why Benchmarking is Important

- Benchmarking is foundational to what we are trying to do; all but impossible for Members to effectively pursue their energy management goals without benchmarking.
- Benchmarking:
 - Enables comparison with similar buildings
 - Enables comparison with own past performance
 - Establishes baseline for measuring future improvements
 - Helps to identify “ripest” opportunities for intervention (both the best building candidates, and the best interventions within any given building)

Member Challenges to Benchmarking and Energy Management

- Easier for larger organizations (often have facilities management teams, established engineering partners, etc.)
- Harder for smaller organizations (often don't have dedicated energy mgt staff)
- Frequent challenges:
 - training/expertise (in benchmarking, analysis, and road-mapping)
 - data accessibility
 - inadequate (sub-)metering
 - tenant-occupied spaces/partially occupied buildings
 - funding for capital improvements
- 2030 District is engaged in helping Members address all of these types of challenges.

2030 Districts and Benchmarking Ordinances

- No official position on the idea of a benchmarking ordinance in Cincinnati:
 - some Members likely favor
 - some likely wary or even opposed
- Nationwide, 2030 Districts operate successfully - albeit differently - in jurisdictions with benchmarking ordinances and jurisdictions without.
- With ordinance:
 - 2030D is resource to help Members with reporting requirements
 - More complete data, better visibility
- Without ordinance:
 - 2030D is resource to help Members, but also focused on fostering a community of practice
 - Data gaps, incomplete visibility
 - Staff opportunity costs (chasing data)

Looking Ahead

- If Council moves forward with a benchmarking ordinance for Cincinnati, the 2030 District can be great asset, both in formulation of a fair and effective ordinance and in supporting implementation.
- But regardless of what ultimately happens with an ordinance, the 2030 District will continue to be a resource for our local commercial building community, helping them to decarbonize and improve the energy management in their properties.



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