

Building Energy Benchmarking Overview

Climate, City Services & Infrastructure
8.4.2026



What is Energy Benchmarking?

Benchmarking compares a building's energy use to similar buildings and helps identify opportunities to reduce operating costs and improve performance.

Key Things to Know:

- Focuses on existing large buildings
- Uses utility meter data
- Helps building owners understand their building's energy performance relative to similar buildings
- Implemented in over 40 cities in the U.S. including Columbus, Pittsburgh, St. Louis
- Cities with benchmarking see 3-8% annual reductions in energy usage

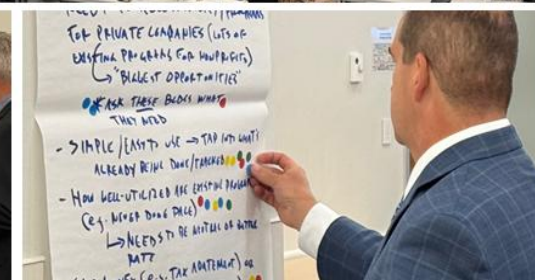
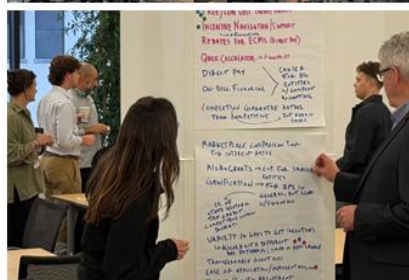
Stakeholder Engagement

University of Cincinnati received DOE grant to lead benchmarking development across Ohio.

Four stakeholder sessions in 2025 were held with over 50 participants to discuss building energy policy concepts.

Policy Report and three presentations to Committee.

Additional outreach to key stakeholders.



Benchmarking Benefits

Building Owners

Better understanding of energy costs and opportunities for savings

City Government

Better building-stock data for planning and incentive development

Tenants

Access to more efficient and comfortable spaces

Community

Reduced emissions and energy waste

Benchmarking Ordinance Overview

DOES

Require annual energy reporting for covered buildings

Create transparency on building energy performance

Support Green Cincinnati Plan goals

Establish a foundation for future grid planning and policy decisions

DOES NOT

Require immediate building upgrades

Restrict building operations

Apply to most small businesses

Impact homeowners

Proposed Policy Rollout

Property Types	Initial Reporting Date
City Properties Greater than 10,000 square feet	June 1, 2027
Properties Greater Than 100,000 square feet • Commercial – Office, Education, Retail, Warehouse, Medical, Data Centers • Multi-family – Apartments, Condominiums	June 1, 2028
Properties Greater Than 50,000 square feet	June 1, 2030

Not Subject to Ordinance: State and Federal Buildings, Industrial buildings

Streamlining Data Collection

To make compliance as simple as possible, partners have developed software to automate utility data reporting.

Owners may:

- Enter data directly
- Authorize the City to obtain data on their behalf



Continued Building Owner Outreach

Collect Building Contact Information

- CoStar, Auditor, BOMA, OSG, Chamber

Conduct Outreach

- Letters, emails, calls
- Public Meetings

Provide Support

- Reporting assistance
- Benchmarking tool setup
- Education



Thank You

- Economic Development
- Fire
- Fleet Services
- Health
- Neighborhood Councils
- Parking
- Parks
- Police
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Streetcar

