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**MAYOR RAHM EMANUEL INTRODUCES ENERGY RATING SYSTEM FOR LARGE BUILDINGS**

*Four-star rating increases transparency around energy performance in buildings over 50,000 sq. ft.*

Mayor Rahm Emanuel today introduced to City Council a Chicago Energy Rating System that would make energy use information for large buildings easily accessible to Chicagoans while encouraging energy savings.

“By providing simplicity and transparency around building performance, we are giving Chicagoans the tools to better understand energy consumption,” said Mayor Emanuel. “This updated ordinance will help drive cost-saving measures for energy efficiency, and will support the development of 21<sup>st</sup> century jobs for local residents and businesses.”

Once passed by City Council, the proposed ordinance will use buildings existing and publicly available energy data alongside recent energy improvements to rate buildings on a zero to four star scale. Buildings will be required to post ratings in a prominent location on the property, and share this information at the time of sale or lease listing. Chicago is one of the first cities in America to assign buildings an energy performance rating and require properties to post their rating.

Large buildings are one of the most significant contributors to greenhouse gases in Chicago, comprising 20 percent of the city's carbon emissions and spending over \$650 million annually in energy costs. The proposal builds on the City's existing Energy Benchmarking Ordinance, which requires buildings over 50,000 square feet to measure and report energy use once per year. The vast majority of these buildings currently receive a 1-100 ENERGY STAR score from the US Environmental Protection Agency, based on that building's energy performance versus like buildings around the country while taking into account occupancy, operational characteristics and Chicago's climate zone. Buildings that have complied for two or three consecutive years to date have saved an estimated \$17.8 million in energy costs per year and have reduced weather normalized energy use by up to 4 percent.

The Rating applies to the 3,500 properties already required to annually benchmark energy data, and imposes no additional cost. It will use the building's most recent score and recent energy improvements to calculate the star rating. Buildings with one to three stars can earn an additional star by improving their ENERGY STAR score by 10 points or more. If all buildings with ENERGY STAR scores below 90 were to improve their scores by only 10 points to earn one additional star in the new Rating, buildings would see savings of over \$70 million per year. In addition the investments needed to achieve these savings would generate over 1,000 clean energy jobs.

“The work we do with Chicagoans everyday on smarter energy use helps to create jobs and reduce our environmental footprint,” said Anne Evens, CEO of Elevate Energy. “The Mayor's Chicago Energy Rating System increases transparency to building owners and tenants of their energy use which will help spur investments in our city's buildings.”

While reporting will continue to be mandated, buildings will not be required to make changes to improve energy efficiency. Buildings that do not comply with the energy benchmarking ordinance will receive zero out of four stars. Building owners will post the star rating publicly on their premises and provide it at the time of sale or lease. In addition, the City will post ratings on the Chicago Data Portal. More information on the current benchmarking ordinance and the Mayor's Energy Rating System can be found at [www.CityofChicago.org/EnergyBenchmarking](http://www.CityofChicago.org/EnergyBenchmarking).

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