

# Chicago Energy Benchmarking

The **Chicago Energy Benchmarking Ordinance** seeks to raise awareness of energy performance through information and transparency, with the goal of unlocking energy and cost savings opportunities for businesses and residents. To comply, covered buildings must track whole-building energy use, report to the City annually, and verify data accuracy every three years. For more information, please visit [www.CityofChicago.org/EnergyBenchmarking](http://www.CityofChicago.org/EnergyBenchmarking).

## Which buildings are covered?

The ordinance applies to commercial, institutional, and residential buildings  $\geq 50,000$  square feet. Exemptions are available for buildings experiencing financial hardship or low occupancy rates, new construction (previous calendar year), and buildings with specific space uses.

## When must buildings comply?

In 2016, all commercial, institutional, and residential buildings 50,000 and greater are required to comply. Also, residential buildings from 50,000 - 250,000 square feet will benchmark, verify, and report for the first time in 2016. Buildings that complied for the first time in 2014 or 2015 are required only to benchmark and report in 2016, since data verification is required every three years.

The annual energy benchmarking deadline is June 1<sup>st</sup>, and the 2016 deadline will be **June 1, 2016**.

Building sector	Building size (ft <sup>2</sup> )	Benchmarking Timeline:			
		2014	2015	2016	2017
Non-Residential	$\geq 250,000$	Benchmark, Verify, Report	Benchmark, Report	Benchmark, Report	Benchmark, Verify, Report
	$\geq 50,000$		Benchmark, Verify, Report	Benchmark, Report	Benchmark, Report
Residential	$\geq 250,000$		Benchmark, Verify, Report	Benchmark, Report	Benchmark, Report
	$\geq 50,000$			Benchmark, Verify, Report	Benchmark, Report

The City will report annually on energy efficiency trends, and the ordinance authorizes the City to share building-specific data with the public after an initial one-year grace period.

## How do I get started?

- Visit [www.CityofChicago.org/EnergyBenchmarking](http://www.CityofChicago.org/EnergyBenchmarking) to download the **Compliance Checklist** and step-by-step **Benchmarking Guide**.
- Set up a Portfolio Manager profile for your building at [www.energystar.gov/benchmark](http://www.energystar.gov/benchmark)
- If your building has multiple energy meters and accounts, request whole-building data:
  - ComEd (electricity): [www.ComEd.com/EnergyUsageData](http://www.ComEd.com/EnergyUsageData)
  - Peoples Gas (natural gas): [www.peoplesgasdelivery.com/business/aggregation.aspx](http://www.peoplesgasdelivery.com/business/aggregation.aspx)
- For buildings reporting for the first time in 2016: Arrange for in-house or 3<sup>rd</sup> party professional data verification. See [www.CityofChicago.org/EnergyBenchmarking](http://www.CityofChicago.org/EnergyBenchmarking) for a full list of recognized qualifications.
- Report to the City through the “Report” link at [www.CityofChicago.org/EnergyBenchmarking](http://www.CityofChicago.org/EnergyBenchmarking)

## Where can I find help?

- **Contact the Help Center** at [info@chicagoenergybenchmarking.org](mailto:info@chicagoenergybenchmarking.org) or call (855) 858-6878.
- **Attend a free training.** Schedules and registration links are available online.

Support provided by the Chicago Energy Benchmarking Working group:

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Elevate Energy | Institute for Market Transformation | Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance |  
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