

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.

Which buildings are covered?

The ordinance applies to commercial, institutional, and residential buildings 50,000 square feet (ft²) or larger. One-year, temporary exemptions are available for buildings experiencing financial hardship, low occupancy rates, new construction, or new ownership. Permanent exemptions are available for buildings with specific space uses (manufacturing/industrial, storage, & others) and for properties less than 50,000 ft² in area.

When must buildings comply?

Compliance was phased in by building size and sector from 2014-2016. Currently, all commercial, institutional, and residential buildings 50,000 ft² and greater are required to comply. Buildings below this size threshold may report voluntarily. The **annual energy benchmarking deadline is June 1st**.

When is data verification required?

Data verification is required every three years; the year of the next required data verification is listed on your compliance notification letter or email, and is also found on the most current [Covered Buildings List](#). If your building reported data in the past, but did not verify data or did not properly document your data verification, City records will show that you are required to complete data verification this year. If you believe you are not required to complete data verification, you may call the Chicago Energy Benchmarking Help Center to update your status.

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 to download the **Compliance Checklist** and step-by-step **Benchmarking Guide**.
- Set up a Portfolio Manager profile for your building (if a profile does not already exist) at www.energystar.gov/benchmark
- If your building has multiple energy meters and accounts, request whole-building data:
 - ComEd (electricity): <https://www.comed.com/WaysToSave/ForYourBusiness/Pages/EnergyUsageData.aspx>
 - Peoples Gas (natural gas): www.peoplesgasdelivery.com/business/aggregation.aspx
- If required this year: Arrange for in-house or 3rd party professional data verification. See www.CityofChicago.org/EnergyBenchmarking for a full list of recognized qualifications.
- Report to the City using the current year's Reporting Link (found online at www.CityofChicago.org/EnergyBenchmarking)

Where can I find help?

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

Support provided by the Chicago Energy Benchmarking Working group:

AIA Chicago | ASHRAE | C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group | City of Chicago
Elevate Energy | Institute for Market Transformation | Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance |
Natural Resources Defense Council | Seventhwave | Illinois Green Alliance