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 municipal, commercial, and residential buildings >50,000 square feet. Exemptions are available for buildings experiencing financial hardship or low occupancy rates, new construction, and buildings with specific space uses.

When must buildings comply?

In 2015, commercial and municipal buildings 50,000 - 250,000 square feet and residential buildings over 250,000 square feet will benchmark, verify, and report for the first time.

Buildings that benchmarked, verified, and reported in 2014 are required only to benchmark and report in 2015; these buildings' next verification deadline is in 2017.

Building Sector	Building Size (ft^2)	Required by June 1st of:			
		2014	2015	2016	2017
Non-Residential	≥ 250,000	Benchmark, Verify, Report	Benchmark, Report	Benchmark, Report	Benchmark, Verify, Report
	≥ 50,000		Benchmark, Verify, Report	Benchmark, Report	Benchmark, Report
Residential	≥ 250,000		Benchmark, Verify, Report	Benchmark, Report	Benchmark, Report
	≥ 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 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
- If your building has multiple energy meters and accounts, **request whole-building data**:
  o ComEd (electricity): www.comed.com/energytools
  o Peoples Gas (natural gas): www.peoplesgasdelivery.com/business/aggregation.aspx
- Arrange for in-house or 3rd party **professional data verification**. Details on recognized data verifier training programs and credentials are available online.
- **Report to the City** through the "Report" link 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** in 2015. Schedules and registration links will be available online.

Support provided by the Chicago **Energy Benchmarking Working Group**:

AIA Chicago | ASHRAE | City of Chicago | Elevate Energy |Energy Center of Wisconsin
Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance | Natural Resources Defense Council | USGBC-Illinois