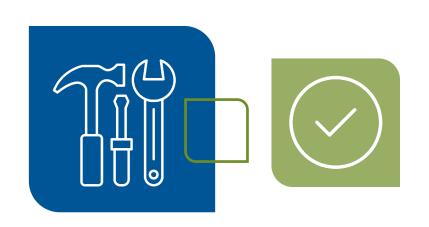


Energize Denver is an energy efficiency policy that aims to improve the efficiency of Denver's buildings, making them more resilient and reducing pollution.

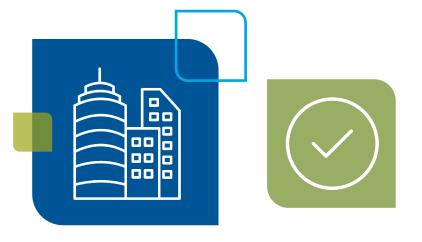
29% of large buildings already meet the policy's requirements, up from 15% two years ago.

## The Energize Denver Performance Policy is...



## **Energy Efficiency Requirements**

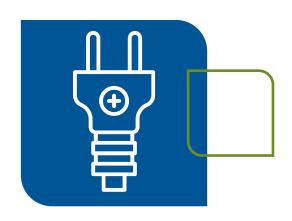
The policy requires each building to meet a certain level of energy efficiency through operations and equipment improvements to a building



### **Building Size Categories**

- 5,000 24,999 sq. ft. (8,000 buildings) must upgrade their lighting to LED or install solar to meet 20% of their usage.
- 25,000+ sq. ft. (3,000 buildings) must meet certain levels of energy efficiency based on building type by 2032.

## The Energize Denver Building Performance Policy is NOT...



# An Electrification Requirement

Buildings are not required to electrify to be in compliance.



# A Mandate to Replace HVAC Systems

Replacing space and water heating systems before the end of system life is not required for the Performance Policy.



## A 30% Energy Reduction Requirement for Every Building

The ordinance's overarching goal is a 30% reduction in energy use, but each building's target is unique.

# The City's approach is to make compliance with the Building Performance Standards a practical, achievable process.

We understand that every building is different, and compliance cannot be one-size-fits-all.

The city's goal is to work alongside Denver's building owners, property managers, and service providers to make reducing energy use practical, more affordable, and better aligned with each unique building.

## **Summary of Changes**

#### **Extended Timelines**

When buildings are benchmarked for the 2025 reporting year, owners can opt-in to a timeline extension that shifts the 2024/2025 interim target to 2028, with final compliance deadlines shifted from 2030 to 2032,.

Building owners may also apply for extensions beyond 2032.

This gives buildings more time and flexibility to plan, budget, and implement energy efficiency improvements.

#### **Lower Penalties**

The focus of this program is on energy efficiency, not penalties—penalties have been cut in half, none have been issued to date, and none will be assessed until 2029.

### Clearer Compliance Steps

Improved guidance and communication between the city and building owners ensures they have the support they need to meet compliance requirements.

# **Expanded Financial Support**

New rebates make energy audits more affordable and create more energy management training opportunities for staff. The Energize Denver Help Desk also now offers improved navigation of additional financial relief opportunities.

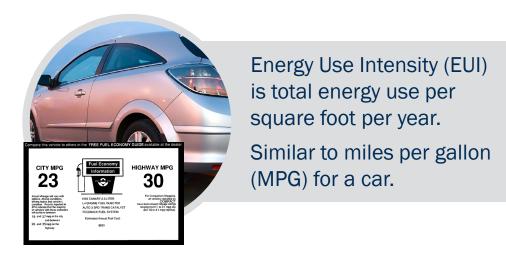
## More Resources and Collaboration

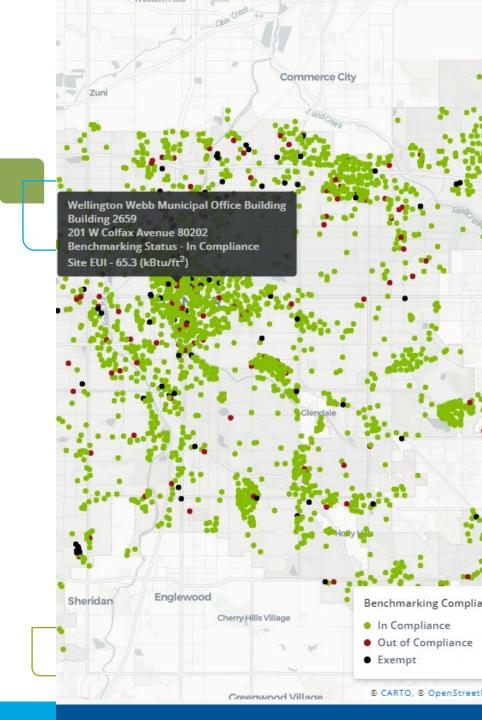
Additional tools and transparent compliance guidance will help buildings successfully implement improvements and achieve their energy reduction targets.

Upgrading a building's performance and reducing its energy use to meet Energize Denver targets takes time, planning, and funding.

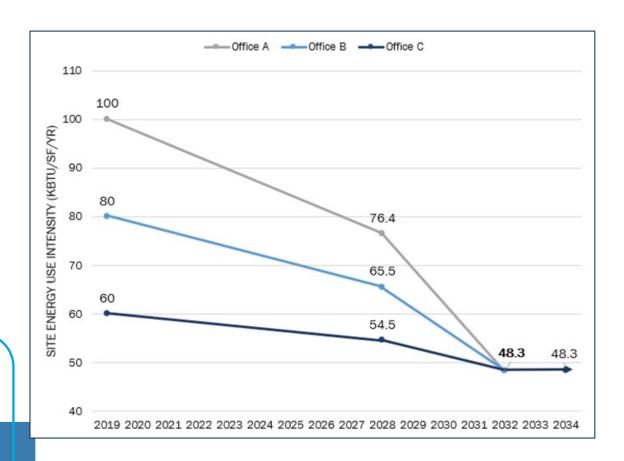
# **Benchmarking Measures Energy Performance**

- Benchmarking since 2017
- Annual compliance rates as high as 98%
- Simplest compliance with targets is meeting energy efficiency level and turning in benchmarking to prove it.





## **Energy Efficiency Targets**



- Each energy efficiency target is based on building type and is specific to the building based on how it is benchmarked. Targets are adjusted for mixed-use and high-intensity energy uses (pools, data centers, etc.).
- At a basic level, for compliance, all a building has to do is meet the energy efficiency target by its due date and turn in annual benchmarking to prove it.
- Historical, unique, and manufacturing and agricultural buildings have specialized options.





## **Prioritize Planning**

- Practical Energy Targets:
  - No building is required to reduce energy use by more than 42%.
  - Credit for Adaptive Reuse buildings
  - Refined a custom target process for Historical and Unique bldgs.
  - New custom target process available for all buildings
- Time for Thoughtful Planning: Buildings have flexibility to develop strategic, well-informed compliance plans.
- Encouraging Cost-Saving Audits: Incentives support energy audits to identify savings and compliance pathways, though not mandatory.





## **Extended Timelines**

- Extended Compliance Deadlines: Building owners will now have an opportunity to opt-in to a timeline extension during this year's benchmarking that:
  - shifts the 2024/2025 target to 2028,
  - eliminates the 2027 target, and
  - Shifts the 2030 target to 2032
- Heating & Cooling Equipment: Buildings can receive time extensions to wait until end of system life to replace equipment.
- Extensions & Holds: Ability to apply for interim compliance holds or timeline extensions.

## **More Time...**

#### **Short-term Interim Compliance Holds for:**

- Qualifying financial distress
- Financial solvency concerns
- Vacancy rates cause a financial solvency concern
- Lease terminations
- Redevelopment areas
- Demolition
- Adaptive reuse project timing
- Change of building ownership
- Natural or man-made disasters
- Benchmarking exemptions
- Landmark preservation commission review
- Other reasons on a case-by-case basis

#### **Long-term Timeline Extensions for:**

- End of HVAC system service life
- Energy service capacity limitations
- Downtown steam loop system infrastructure planning
- Major renovations
- Innovative approaches
- Other reasons on a case-by-case basis

## **Funding & Support**

## **Building Management Portal**

Launching May 1, a centralized platform for managing compliance, tracking progress and accessing resources.

# **Compliance Status Reports**

Providing buildings with the ability to demonstrate compliance for real estate transactions through a disclosure letter.

#### **1:1 Coaching Services**

Expanded support capacity and personalized consultations for building owners to develop tailored compliance strategies.

# Free Online Energy Management Tool

Features include virtual energy assessments, project planning tools, resource library.

# **Enhanced Contractor & Service Provider Trainings**

Expanded training programs for professionals supporting energy compliance efforts. New rebates for building staff energy management training now available.

#### **Financial Assistance**

2025 rebates available for energy audits. And a variety of financial support mechanisms are available through partners, including low-interest loans, grants, and other funding sources

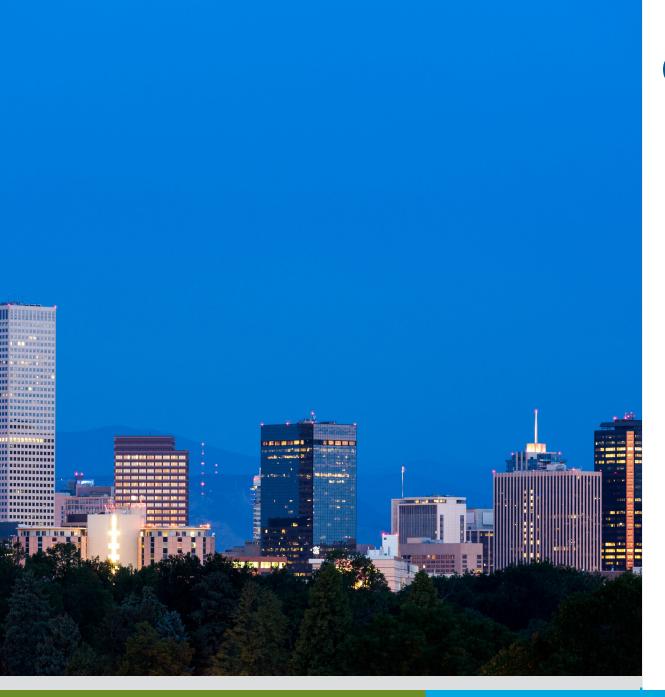
## **Stories**

"As a health care provider, having a healing environment in our medical facilities is important for both our patients and our staff. Improving the energy efficiency of our buildings was a direction we wanted to take to support the people we care for."



Photo: Seth McConnell, Denver Business Journal

"Making these improvements now helps us deliver on our mission to help people live the healthiest lives possible, and to achieve sustainability goals and to be good stewards of our resources. The Energize Denver team worked with us at our Midtown location to implement a compliance path that worked for the unique needs of our building. And the updates they're making to the program will ensure we can maintain that healing environment." – Tim Keenan, Facilities Director, Intermountain Health Peaks Region.



## **Commitment to Collaboration**

- Improved clarity on compliance steps.
- Streamlined communications
- Assistance for businesses navigating the policy.
- Trainings and connections to qualified contractors.
- Dedicated business hub and compliance portal.

## **Energize Denver Team**



Policy Manager Sharon Jaye



Operations & Data Matt Raia



**Outreach** Derek Valenti



**Compliance**Mike Williams



**Industrial**Daniel Raynor



**Equity Priority**Berenice El Gharamti



Bldgs. 5,000-24,999 Tom Wildman

Building Performance

Help Desk

Providing support and coaching for Energize Denver



Hours: 8am-5pm, M-F

Phone: (844)-536-4528

Schedule a Phone Appointment: <a href="https://energyreporting.as.me/appointment">https://energyreporting.as.me/appointment</a>

• Email for Buildings 25,000 sq. ft. and larger: <a href="mailto:energizedenver@denvergov.org">energizedenver@denvergov.org</a>

• Email for Buildings 5,000 - 24,999 sq. ft.: <a href="mailto:energizesmallbuildings@denvergov.org">energizesmallbuildings@denvergov.org</a>



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