

Energize Denver

Policy Document Draft

Reporting Deadline

Benchmarking reports shall initially be due as set forth in Section 3.1 of the Energy Efficiency Program Rule, and shall thereafter be due on June 1st of each year (“Reporting Deadline”). The Department may provide an Owner with a grace period extending no more than one (1) month following the Reporting Deadline (“Grace Period”). Reports submitted during the Grace Period will count as on-time compliance for the year.

Data Verification and Quality Assurance

The Department will review the data submitted for data quality problems, including the following:

- ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager energy alerts;
- ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager property use detail alerts;
- EUI outside a normal range (less than ten (10) or more than five hundred (500));
- Abnormal ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager scores of one (1) or ninety-nine (99);
- Gross Floor Area significantly different from that in the tax assessor’s records;
- Number of workers, operating hours, or other building use details for a specific property type that are well outside of the normal range.

The Department will communicate with Owners to identify and assist in resolving any errors such as those listed above.

Compliance Support and Enforcement

The Department may assess a maximum civil penalty as is permitted under D.R.M.C. § 4-9. While the Department has discretion to issue penalties, the goal of Energize Denver is to assist Owners of Covered Buildings with successfully benchmarking their energy performance. The Department intends to take the following approach to assist Owners in complying with the requirements of the Energy Efficiency Program:

- Year 1: The Department and its help center intend to offer in-person trainings on how to benchmark, provide support for benchmarking questions, and offer one-on-one follow-up with any Owners who have not complied on time or who had obvious data errors.
- Year 2: The Department intends to continue focusing on completing one-on-one outreach to help Owners correct errors and come into compliance.
- Year 3: The Department intends to perform additional education and outreach. The Department may consider requiring Owners with continuing data accuracy issues to submit a certificate of proficiency in benchmarking subject to further rulemaking.
- Year 4: The Department may require a professional engineer to sign-off on the scores of buildings that continue to have data quality problems.

In addition, the Department intends to create a program to provide pro-bono benchmarking services for buildings experiencing financial distress or flow low-income, affordable housing or nonprofits upon request from those Owners.

Transparency

The Department will publish basic building information and energy performance metrics annually for all Covered Buildings reporting that year, including the following fields:

- Property name;
- Address;
- Property type;
- Gross Floor Area;
- Year Built;
- ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager score;
- Weather normalized site EUI;
- Total greenhouse gas emissions;
- ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager certification years; and
- Any notes the Owner or property manager has submitted explaining building energy performance information.

Other fields may be included as well that are relevant for specific building types, such as number of buildings on a campus. Past scores will be shown so that improvements can be easily seen.

The Department understands the concerns raised about providing a full data set. The Department intends to honor the recommendations of the Energize Denver task force and only make the data publicly available through a database searchable by address and a clickable map that will not have a download option. The Department will monitor the effectiveness of the transparency policy and any impacts on the real estate sector to inform how data is provided in the future. The Department will work with the real estate sector to adjust how data is provided under the transparency policy in the future.