

Program Benefits Summary

How does Edmonton's Building Energy Benchmarking Program provide value to its participants? Edmonton's large buildings will receive the following benefits as a result of participating.

DIRECT PARTICIPANT BENEFITS

- **Be recognized as a leader through a City-hosted awards and recognition program** - All program participants will be recognized for their participation, and specific awards and distinctions will be provided to leaders in defined categories at an annual recognition event.
- **Receive regular targeted updates on new energy efficiency programs and incentives** - Participants will receive updates on Provincial and Federal energy savings programs and incentives as they become available, such as [Energy Efficiency Alberta's BNPI \(Business, Non-Profit and Institutional\) Energy Savings Program](#).
- **One-on-One Support for Energy Benchmarking** - All participants will be offered data collection and submission support to help ensure that your ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager files are properly set up with building characteristics and energy utility information entered accurately. The City will be providing assistance with data collection and submission for any interested participant by hosting an online technical toolkit, managing dedicated customer service supports (email and phone) and hosting a series of energy benchmarking workshops.
- **Receive data on your building and other similar buildings' energy use, to understand how you compare** - Each participant will receive a personalized report including your building's energy performance (e.g. EUI, ENERGY STAR Score (if available), and total GHG emissions). Results will be compared to all other participating buildings within your building type and also compared to Albertan and Canadian averages. In year's 2 and 3 of the pilot, the participant report will include a comparison to the building's previous results. The report will also provide a tailored list of relevant and available incentives to improve building energy efficiency.
- **Be ready for upcoming provincial and federal regulation of energy use in buildings** - The pilot will lay the groundwork to prepare Edmonton's building owners for energy reporting requirements that are expected to be established at the Provincial level in response to the Federal Government's policy objective for mandatory building reporting and transparency requirements as outlined in the [Pan Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change](#), released in December 2016.

ADDITIONAL PARTICIPANT BENEFITS (OPTIONAL)

- **Become eligible for a \$1,500 rebate towards a commercial energy audit** - The City will provide a one-time incentive of up to \$1,500 per building (three maximum per building portfolio ownership group) to help cover the cost of a commercial energy audit. This rebate does not directly incentivize participation but rather encourages those who participate to "take the next step" to understand your energy use and act on the benchmarked energy information.
- **Gain access to City-hosted energy management training and tenant education campaigns including workshops, resources and toolkits** - All participants will be eligible to receive City of Edmonton led *lunch-n-learn* workshop(s) targeting building tenants. This engaging and educational session will seek to improve tenant energy literacy, inspire improved energy efficiency and highlight the many benefits of energy-saving behaviours. In addition, the City will offer a series of energy management workshops (one per quarter) starting in year 2.

BENEFITS OF ENERGY SAVINGS

- **Identify cost-effective energy saving opportunities and reduce operating costs** - A review of similar building benchmarking programs in the US and Canada found an annual average energy savings of 2% across buildings participating in benchmarking programs. Energy bill savings reduces operating expenses and increase net operating income for a building. Further operational savings can be realized by reducing maintenance costs through the installation of longer lasting, energy-efficient technologies.
- **Gain a competitive advantage to attract and retain tenants and increase your property value** - Investments in energy efficiency have been shown to lead to an increase in rental fees and energy efficient buildings attract higher rental fees than less efficient buildings. Evidence is also growing that the competitive advantages of green buildings translate into higher overall value in the marketplace, higher sales prices and higher tenant satisfaction.
- **Contribute to Edmonton's transition to a low carbon, sustainable energy future** - The program is an essential element of the City's strategic objective to reduce energy use in buildings and this project is considered foundational to achieving the energy efficiency and greenhouse gas emissions reductions targets.

BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

- **Help the City gather information that can ensure future efforts respond to building owner needs** - By participating in the program, you will be assisting the City of Edmonton in achieving a deepened understanding of commercial building energy use. This will allow the City to provide improved programs, tools and processes that will assist other facilities in becoming more energy efficient. This program is considered a catalyst project, a foundational benchmarking program that will inform future Energy Transition Strategy initiatives addressing energy use in buildings.
- **The City of Edmonton's lead-by-example approach collects evidence and demonstrates energy savings opportunities** - The City is committed to walking the talk with 120 City-owned and City-operated facilities committed to benchmark their performance over the 3-year pilot period. By communicating results achieved in City-owned facilities, the City will demonstrate the value of benchmarking, identify energy reduction opportunities across a variety of building types and generate valuable experience that can be shared with all participants.
- **Economic stimulation and local job creation** - The demand for energy savings creates demand for retrofits, which in turn requires energy consultants and skilled laborers to implement renovation projects. Energy reporting and benchmarking programs in other cities have had a direct influence on job creation and spurred investment in energy retrofits.
- **Market Transformation to value energy efficient buildings** - Sharing energy performance publicly allows the market to value energy performance in commercial spaces, thereby increasing their value and further motivating building owners to make improvements. Benchmarking programs can stimulate the market valuation of energy efficiency and lead to market transformation over time.

Addressing energy and GHGs in buildings is essential to meeting long term energy and climate goals of the City of Edmonton, as buildings represent a significant portion of municipal GHG emissions. Sustainability can't be achieved by any one organization or community alone. It's only when everyone works together and does their part that the big changes will happen.