

**City of Minneapolis**  
**Request for Committee Action**

**To:** Health, Environment & Community Engagement  
**Date:** 4/4/2016  
**From:** City Coordinators Office  
**Prepared by:** Gayle Prest  
**Presented by:** Katie Schmitt, Patrick Hanlon  
**File type:** Receive and File

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**Subject:**

Minneapolis Commercial Building Energy Benchmarking Policy Third Annual Report

**Description:**

Receiving and filing presentation regarding 2015 Commercial Energy Benchmarking activities

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**Ward/Address:**

All wards

**Background/Analysis:**

As a leader in sustainability and in order to meet our aggressive greenhouse gas emission (GHG) reduction goals, the City of Minneapolis is working to drive high building performance in the largest commercial building market through energy and water benchmarking and disclosure. This third annual report based on data submissions through August 31, 2015 summarizes the collection of activities and includes benchmarking results, analysis, and trends for public buildings greater than 25,000 square feet and private commercial buildings 50,000 square feet and above. Minneapolis' commercial building benchmarking and disclosure policy (ordinance 47.190) requires large commercial buildings to report energy and water performance data to the City annually via the Environmental Protection Agency's ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager benchmarking tool.

Benchmarking results for this report included 429 buildings representing 50% of the City's commercial building space and about 17% of the City's GHG emissions. It revealed a large range in building types and energy usage patterns, often reflecting the unique uses, operating conditions, and schedules found in public and private buildings. This data will be useful as organizations analyze opportunities for energy efficiency improvements and in the case that an entity has an energy efficiency or climate protection goal, help them track progress. Energy efficiency improvements can save taxpayers, building owners, and building tenants money on energy costs in large buildings, thereby leaving money available for important building and organizational needs. Research has shown that benchmarking can result in cost savings for building owners, managers and tenants, and frees money to be injected back into the local economy. Building energy disclosure is intended to increase building owner and public awareness of building energy performance, and spur action to increase efficiency. Increasing energy efficiency provides tremendous benefits for Minneapolis building owners and residents alike, including lowering energy costs, increasing property values, creating jobs, increasing building comfort, and reducing air pollution.

**Highlights:**

- Data quantity and quality improved (also Xcel has new software that will make it easier to report data)
- Energy performance trended positive (average ENERGY STAR score of 74 and 7% reduction in total energy use intensity normalized for weather over 3 years for consistently benchmarked public buildings)
- Greatest savings identified in offices, hospitals, hotels, and worship facilities

**Looking Ahead:**

- State grant to help buy down the cost of ENERGY STAR certification
- Advancing the Minneapolis Building Energy Challenge
- Leveraging the Clean Energy Partnership in targeting energy conservation with these buildings.
- Facilitating greater transparency of data in order to compare with peers and compete in marketplace
- Targeting energy efficiency projects with the Green Business Cost Share Program
- Finalists for Environmental Initiative's award (May)

To date, the Benchmarking Program has been funded by McKnight Foundation, Energy Foundation, Center for Energy and Environment, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Minnesota Retiree Environmental Technical Assistance Program, and the City of Minneapolis.

**Financial Review:**

**No additional appropriation required, amount included in current budget.**

**Attachments:**

1. PowerPoint presentation