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ecoENERGY Efficiency for Buildings

Benchmarking Tools

Benchmarking for better buildings

Can your building's energy performance be improved? By raising the expectation of how your building *should* perform, benchmarking can help you make the case for taking action. Simply put, what gets measured can be made better. Fortunately, a new national energy benchmarking tool, based on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) model, is coming to Canada in 2013 that will make this task easier. The EPA's online energy management and tracking tool, *Portfolio Manager*[™], will give you the power to monitor, rate and optimize your building's energy use.

By taking a strategic approach to energy management that includes understanding current and past energy use and by looking at the whole building, you can identify opportunities for savings in your operations and systems as well as capital upgrades. Benchmarking is a cost-effective, easy-to-use method for focusing and prioritizing energy decisions.

Get in the habit

Portfolio Manager will be available on a progressive basis, starting with office buildings and schools. Other building types will be added over time. Follow the lead of more than 4000 other Canadian buildings and start using *Portfolio Manager* now (energystar.gov). Your building data will automatically be transferred to the Canadian system in 2013 and will include Canadian weather data, a bilingual interface and metric units.

Natural Resources Canada's **ecoENERGY Efficiency for Buildings** is in the process of developing additional benchmarking tools to help you along the way. If you already use another system, you can still benefit from our tools and support. The EPA has developed a *Benchmarking Starter Kit* to help you use *Portfolio Manager* now while it is being adapted for Canada. Visit the EPA Web site at energystar.gov to learn more and start entering your data now!

Why energy management is important for Canadian buildings

Businesses are reducing their energy costs by 10, 20, and even upwards of 30 percent through effective energy management practices that involve assessing energy performance, setting energy-savings goals and regularly evaluating progress.

Source: *Benchmarking to Save Energy: Protect Our Environment Through Energy Efficiency*, US EPA

Rate your building's energy performance

Portfolio Manager will allow you to rate your energy performance on a scale of 1-100 relative to similar buildings across Canada.

A rating of 75 indicates that the building, from an energy consumption standpoint, performs better than 75% of all similar buildings nationwide. Scores are normalized for weather, building attributes, and operating characteristics.

Data will be based on the *Survey on Commercial and Institutional Energy*, a national survey of energy consumption conducted by Statistics Canada in 2009.



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Measure to manage, to better the bottom line

Whether you own, manage or hold properties for investment, benchmarking can help you set priorities, verify efficiency improvements and reduce your building's carbon footprint. By measuring how your buildings compare with similar buildings across Canada, you will be able to identify poorly performing buildings and target investments to lower costs.

Supported by many stakeholders in the Canadian buildings sector, **ecoENERGY Efficiency for Buildings'** benchmarking tools will facilitate accreditation by top building rating systems, including the Canada Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program and the Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA) of Canada's Building Environmental Standards (BES_t) program. Don't delay, start using the *Portfolio Manager* tool today.

For more information

Contact **ecoENERGY Efficiency for Buildings** for more information or to share your benchmarking experiences. To see the latest news and information on this initiative, visit the Office of Energy Efficiency's Web site at oee.nrcan.gc.ca or e-mail us at info.services@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca



Natural Resources Canada's Office of Energy Efficiency
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Revised March 2012



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