

# Energy Benchmarking Data Jam

## Evanston, IL



Participants and volunteers at the Evanston Energy Benchmarking Data Jam, December 6, 2016

Buildings comprise around 40 percent of the total energy consumption in the United States, and benchmarking policies, which provide transparency and serve as a baseline to measure energy consumption, have proven to be a crucial first step to achieving energy savings. In 2015, the Evanston City Council began developing a proposed water and energy [benchmarking ordinance](#) to better track and reduce energy waste and costs for its residents. The ordinance will help Evanston meet energy goals by requiring city buildings and buildings over 20,000 square feet (besides small condos) to report annual energy and water consumption. Buildings will be phased in according to size, with the first phase of buildings beginning to report June 30, 2017.

On December 6, 2016, the City of Evanston, MEEA and the USGBC-IL held a free workshop in Evanston to answer questions about the ordinance and empower residents with tools to track and reduce their energy costs.

The workshop was attended by owners and managers of condo associations, worship facilities, offices, residence halls, assisted and senior living facilities, and even an alderman. Many attendees came because they were curious about the ordinance and how it might impact them, others were eager to start tracking their energy usage.

The workshop gave a brief overview of the benchmarking software, ENERGY STAR® Portfolio Manager, and then paired attendees with experienced volunteers to help them open their own accounts, answer questions and set up their buildings in the software. Many attendees were surprised by how quick and easy it was to set up, track and report their energy use.

The event was planned for after the City Council vote on the benchmarking ordinance. However, the vote was rescheduled, and the data jam occurred prior to the vote. Some attendees, after having a positive experience at the data jam, ended up supporting the ordinance when they previously opposed it. On December 12, 2016, the Evanston City Council voted 7-2 to pass the Building Energy and Water Benchmarking Ordinance.

# Energy Benchmarking Resources

## Evanston, IL

- [City of Evanston Benchmarking Ordinance Page](#)
- [Evanston Benchmarking Ordinance FAQ's](#)
- [Building Types Not Covered by Evanston Benchmarking Ordinance](#)
- [Link to access your ComEd data](#)
- [Instructions to help access your data through ComEd](#)
- [Link to access your water data through Neptune](#)
- [Instructions to help access your water data through Neptune](#)
- [EUDS Enrollment Form](#)
- [Brief Instructions on How to Use ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager](#)
- [USGBC-IL Presentation on How-to Use ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager and Access Data through ComEd](#)
- [City of Evanston Presentation](#)
- [MEEA Article About Evanston Benchmarking Workshop Success](#)

### Evanston Building Energy and Water Benchmarking Ordinance Reporting Requirements

Compliance Deadline	Type of Building	Building Size Threshold
June 30, 2017 and each June 30 thereafter	Public, commercial and multifamily	City buildings 10,000 square feet and larger and privately-owned buildings 100,000 square feet and larger
June 30, 2018 and each June 30 thereafter	Commercial and multifamily	50,000 square feet and larger
June 30, 2019 and each June 30 thereafter	Commercial and multifamily except condos	20,000 square feet and larger

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