

BENCHMARKING: WHAT IS IT AND WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?

- **WHAT?** Benchmarking is the practice of comparing the measured performance of a facility to itself, its peers, or established norms, with the goal of informing and motivating performance improvement. When applied to building energy use, benchmarking measures energy performance of a single building over time, relative to other similar buildings, or to modeled simulations of a reference building built to a specific standard (such as an energy code).
- **WHY?** It's the law. Buildings with more than 50,000 square feet of gross floor area and no residential utility accounts are required to benchmark using Energy Star's Portfolio Manager annually by June 1 (AB 802). *Municipalities can adopt local benchmarking to reduce the square footage required. Benchmarking accurately forecasts and budgets for current year utility expenses and equipment upgrades. Discover ways to lower your building's energy use and save on utility bills. Validate and quantify savings achieved from improvements and investments in energy efficiency. Additionally, gain an ENERGY STAR Certification to increase property value.
- **WHO?** Benchmarking is useful for state and local government property owners and facility operators, managers, and designers. It facilitates energy accounting, comparing a facility's energy use to similar facilities to assess opportunities for improvement, and quantifying/verifying energy savings. It's encouraged to benchmark all state and local properties regardless of size to maximize energy efficiency standards and goals.
- **WHEN?** Benchmarking can be acquired throughout the year. Buildings with more than 50,000 square feet of gross floor area and no residential utility accounts must submit annual data by June 1.
- **HOW?** As a PG&E customer, building owners or Authorized Agents obtain whole building aggregated or individual tenant-specific meter data through PG&E's Building Benchmarking Portal (<https://pge.com/benchmarking>). Next, using ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager (<https://portfoliomanager.energystar.gov>), a free online tool provided by the United States Environmental Protection Agency, complete the reporting.

**The cities of San Francisco, Berkeley, and Los Angeles have local benchmarking and public disclosure programs whose requirements exceed those of the state program.*

