

ENERGY PERFORMANCE IN BUILDINGS HB21-1286

BACKGROUND

Large commercial, multifamily, and public buildings account for roughly 15% of all energy used in Colorado. Every bit of energy saved in these buildings benefits tenants, property owners and managers, investors, and the environment. By measuring and tracking energy use in buildings, also known as benchmarking, building owners and tenants can better understand how their building's energy performance compares to similar buildings and identify opportunities to cut energy waste. Beyond benchmarking alone, we can increase the amount of energy savings, cost savings, and climate benefits by requiring less-efficient buildings to improve. With a building energy performance policy, we can improve our living and working spaces while helping Colorado lead the nation in transitioning to high-performing buildings.



ABOUT THE BILL

Based on successful policies already in place in Colorado cities and throughout the nation, this bill requires most large commercial, multifamily, and public buildings over 50,000 square feet to benchmark energy use and reduce emissions. Here's how it works:

- **Benchmarking:** Buildings measure their energy use and get a score compared to other buildings, which takes just a handful of hours the first year and less than an hour in subsequent years.
- **Easy data upload:** Major utilities provide user-friendly energy data.
- **Transparency:** The Colorado Energy Office puts benchmarking scores on a map similar to energizedenver.org so that investors, tenants, and the public can choose efficient properties.
- **Upgrades:** Less-efficient buildings make and improvements that lead to a 15-point ENERGY STAR score increase, a 15% energy use intensity reduction, or other options.
- **Assistance:** The Colorado Energy Office provides training and support for every step. Incentive programs and financing such as C-PACE and performance contracting allow building owners to make the improvements at zero cost.

SAVES ENERGY



SAVES MONEY



CUTS CLIMATE
POLLUTION



IMPROVES THE
BUILDING STOCK

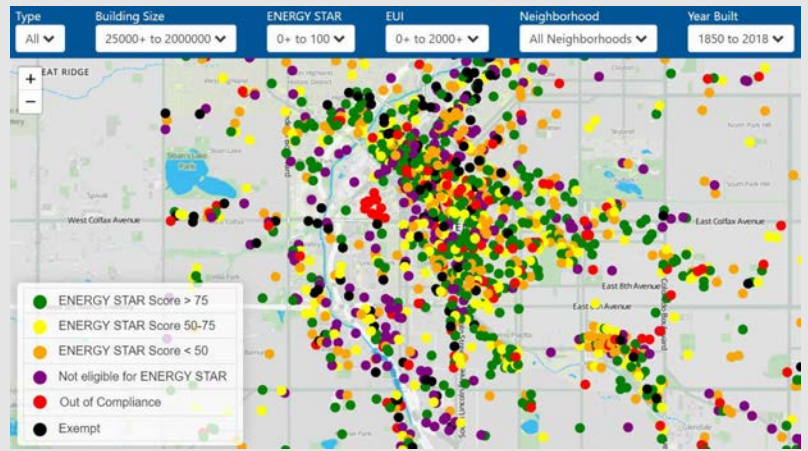


HELPS HOUSING
AFFORDABILITY



Denver, Boulder, and Fort Collins all have benchmarking ordinances, saving millions of dollars for local property owners, commercial tenants, and apartment residents.

More than a third of large buildings in Colorado are already benchmarking, showing that it's unquestionably feasible while also showing a broad opportunity for the remaining two-thirds.



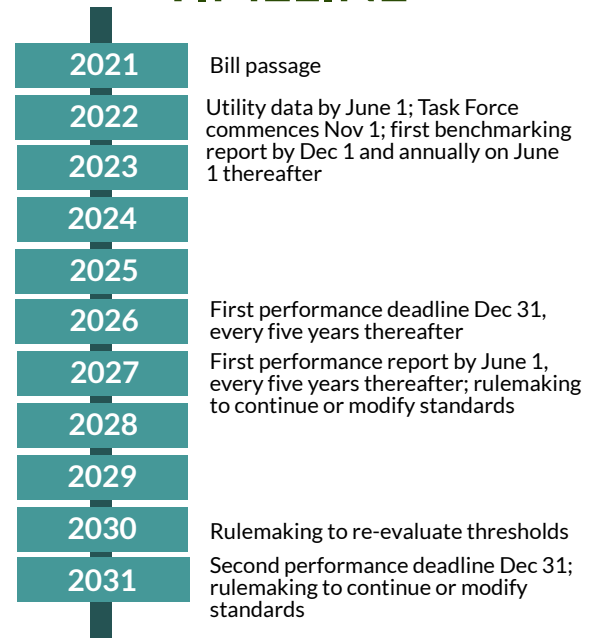
WHO BENEFITS

- **Tenants and small businesses** who will save on monthly energy bills
- **Building owners** who can compare their building's energy use with similar properties, prioritize upgrades, and improve the value of their property
- **Local governments** wanting to reduce unnecessary spending and energy wastefulness, improve their community's building stock, and attract investment
- **Businesses and workers** skilled in energy efficiency retrofits, mechanical system upgrades, electrical work, engineering, recommissioning, and more
- **Utilities** who want additional value for key accounts, data-informed targeting for efficiency programs, and reduced peak demand
- **All Coloradans** working to prevent climate breakdown, improve air quality, and save water

SAVINGS IN 2030

- **\$447 MILLION IN ENERGY BILLS**
- **3,200 GIGAWATT-HOURS OF ELECTRICITY**
- **7,700 BILLION CUBIC FEET OF NATURAL GAS**
- **1.0 MILLION METRIC TONS OF CO₂**
(0.6 MMT FROM ELECTRICITY, 0.4 MMT FROM NATURAL GAS)

TIMELINE



FOR MORE INFO

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