

ENERGIZE SAINT PAUL BUILDING ENERGY BENCHMARKING REPORT 2023

In 2023, 627 commercial, multifamily, and public buildings over 50,000 square feet benchmarked their 2022 energy and water use, achieving a 91% compliance rate with the City's energy benchmarking ordinance. This is the highest number of buildings benchmarked in the city to-date.

In addition, 88% of successfully benchmarked buildings chose the full data disclosure reporting pathway. The City offers two compliance pathways: full disclosure and partial disclosure. While both pathways take the same amount of work to comply, only full disclosure provides a building's energy performance to the City. Full disclosure provides opportunities to recognize high performers and understand large building energy performance in Saint Paul.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY LEADERS

Annually, the City of Saint Paul celebrates select property owners and managers for their leadership in energy efficiency. In 2023, the following buildings were recognized:

- The Communities of River Crossing
- Verdant
- The Lumin at Highland Bridge
- Spruce Tree Centre
- Infor Commons
- 400 Building
- 401 Securian
- The Golden Rule Building
- Cosmopolitan Apartments
- First National Bank
- Penfield Apartments
- Wells Fargo Place

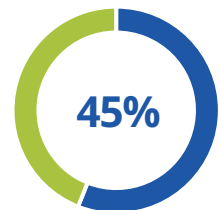
627

Benchmarked properties

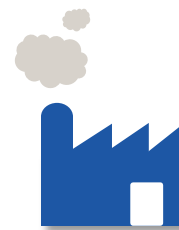
Using in total **10.58 million¹ MMBtu²** equal to



72,181 households

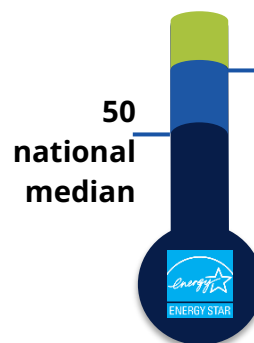


45%
of citywide building energy

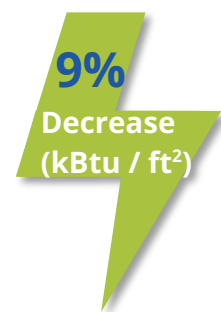


20%
of citywide
GHG emissions

The buildings showed the following performance:



**ENERGY STAR
Score**



**9%
Decrease
(kBtu / ft²)**
in Median Weather
Normalized Site Energy
Use Intensity (EUI) from
2019 to 2022

1. 2022 energy use data.
2. Metric Million British Thermal Units.

WHAT IS BUILDING BENCHMARKING?

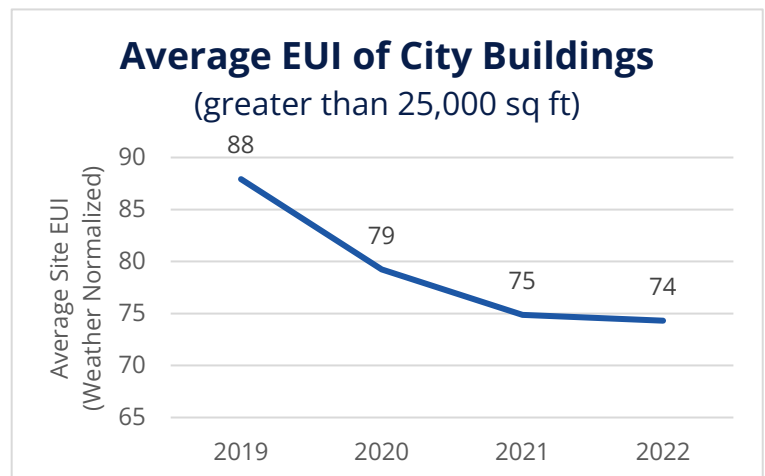
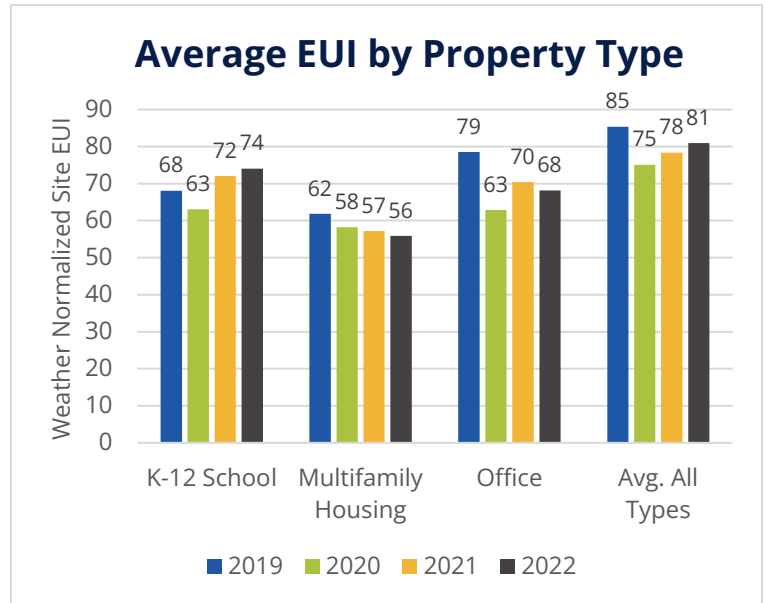
Benchmarking is the ongoing review of building energy and water performance to ensure a building is using energy and water as anticipated -- performance compared to its own anticipated performance over time or the performance of peers. Benchmarking combines two silos of information that have seldomly been merged before: utility meter consumption and building characteristics. By using this information together, we can compare buildings to each other with metrics like Energy Use Intensity (EUI), which measures energy usage per square foot. This information provides new insight to building owners, occupants, and efficiency resource providers that is valuable in building management, investment, sale, and lease decisions.

Multifamily Buildings Continue Efficiency Improvement Trend

Large multifamily buildings are becoming more energy efficient. Since 2019, the average site Energy Use Intensity (EUI) has trended downward even while people spent more time at home during the Covid-19 pandemic. While many economic factors are at play, examples of multifamily properties making significant efficiency improvements support this trend. Stonebridge Companies upgraded the HVAC and lighting at the Communities of River Crossing and decreased the EUI by more than 30% from 2021 to 2022. Likewise, the Verdant, built to Passive House standards, achieved a site EUI of 33 and uses 41% less energy than the average multifamily building in Saint Paul.

Saint Paul's Municipal Building Energy Use Continues to Decrease

The benchmarking ordinance also requires the City of Saint Paul to benchmark its own municipal buildings greater than 25,000 square feet—which includes a wide variety of facility types with unique operational and energy needs, such as police and fire stations with 24/7 operations and Como Zoo's Visitor Center & Conservatory buildings. By implementing energy efficiency measures at these larger municipal buildings, the city has improved the average site EUI by over 15% from 2019 to 2022.



Interested in learning more? Visit www.stpaul.gov/departments/mayors-office/energize-saint-paul for information on the benchmarking ordinance, upcoming trainings and events, and energy efficiency resources.