

ENERGIZE SAINT PAUL

BUILDING ENERGY BENCHMARKING REPORT 2024

In 2024, 656 commercial, multifamily, and public buildings over 50,000 square feet benchmarked their 2023 energy and water use, achieving a record 93% compliance rate with the City's energy benchmarking ordinance. Compliance rates have increased each year since the program's inception in 2019, giving Saint Paul one of the highest compliance rates in Minnesota.

In addition, 92% of successfully benchmarked buildings voluntarily disclosed energy and water use data to the City. While Saint Paul does not require full disclosure, the new State of Minnesota benchmarking program does, and most Saint Paul building owners are well prepared to comply.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY LEADERS

Annually, the City of Saint Paul celebrates select property owners and managers for their leadership in energy efficiency. In 2024, the following ENERGY STAR Certified buildings were recognized:

- Spruce Tree Centre
- Infor Commons
- Securian 400
- Securian 401
- The Golden Rule Building
- Wells Fargo Place
- Nasseff Specialty Center
- University Centre at 1919
- The Waters of Highland Park

WHAT IS BUILDING BENCHMARKING?

Benchmarking is the ongoing tracking of building energy and water use to ensure a building is performing as anticipated and in comparison to similar buildings nationwide. By combining utility meter consumption and building characteristics, buildings of a similar type can be compared to one another with metrics like Energy Use Intensity (EUI), which measures energy usage per square foot. This information provides new and actionable insight to building owners, occupants, and efficiency resource providers that is valuable in building management, investment, sale, and lease decisions.

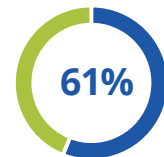
656

Benchmarked properties

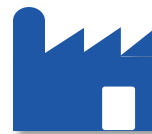
Using in total **13.65 million¹** MMBtu² equal to



72,181 households

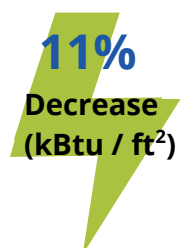
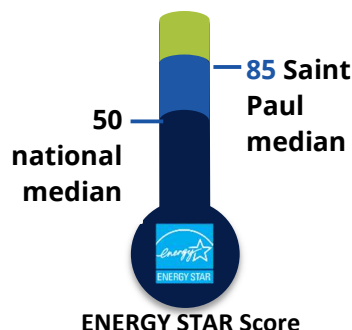


61%
of citywide building energy



27%
of citywide
GHG emissions

The buildings showed the following performance:



11%
Decrease
(kBtu / ft²)
in Median Weather Normalized
Site Energy Use Intensity (EUI)
from 2019 to 2023

1. 2023 energy use data.

2. Metric Million British Thermal Units.

REFLECTING ON BENCHMARKING IN SAINT PAUL

LOOKING BACK

Organized benchmarking efforts have been underway in Saint Paul for more than a decade, beginning with the 2012 launch of Kilowatt Crackdown sponsored by Xcel Energy, Greater St. Paul BOMA, and the Saint Paul Port Authority. In 2016, the City of Saint began to consider adopting a benchmarking ordinance, like those in other U.S. cities, and from 2016-2018, the City undertook intensive research, planning, and stakeholder engagement. Informed by the work of the previous three years, the Saint Paul City Council adopted the Saint Paul benchmarking ordinance in 2019. Between 2020 and 2024, the benchmarking program was tremendously successful, with compliance rates near 90%, and many building owners adopting energy efficiency measures based on benchmarking data.

LOOKING AHEAD

In 2023, the Minnesota Legislature passed a statewide benchmarking law similar to the Saint Paul ordinance. The law becomes effective in the spring of 2025. To avoid confusion and duplication of efforts, the City of Saint Paul will discontinue its ordinance this year and allow the State to assume responsibility for ensuring compliance. Because the state law is so similar to the City ordinance, Saint Paul building owners are well prepared to comply. The State will be contacting building owners directly to explain what is required.

Mayor Carter is deeply appreciative of the relationship forged between the City and building owners and managers over the years through the development and implementation of the benchmarking ordinance. While the State assumes responsibility for benchmarking oversight in 2025, the City of Saint Paul plans to remain engaged with building owners and supportive of their important work.

The City of Saint Paul wishes to thank the following partners who helped shape, administer, and resource the Saint Paul benchmarking program

Energize Saint Paul Partners



**SAINT PAUL
MINNESOTA**



**DISTRICT ENERGY
ST. PAUL™**



**Saint Paul
Business Review Council**



Interested in learning more?

<http://mn.gov/commerce/energy/consumer/energy-programs/benchmarking-energy-use.jsp>

www.stpaul.gov/departments/mayors-office/energize-saint-paul