

# Energy Benchmarking & Reporting Program

## Why is the City proposing changes to the energy benchmarking program?

The City of Seattle was one of the first cities in the nation to enact an energy benchmarking requirement, and we've learned a lot from our experience and from the experience of others. The Office of Sustainability & Environment (OSE) is proposing the following changes to focus the requirement on buildings where it's the best fit, to simplify the enforcement process, and to provide time to refine data systems, conduct building outreach, and build general program awareness. The proposed changes are also necessary to ensure a successful benchmarking program within the limits of the City's current budget environment. OSE believes that changes outlined below will set the benchmarking and reporting program up for long-term success to achieve the desired energy efficiency outcomes in Seattle's existing buildings.

## What are the proposed changes?

Issue	Current Policy	Proposed Policy
<b>Building Size Threshold</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commercial buildings greater than 10,000 square feet.</li> <li>Multifamily buildings with 5 units or more.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commercial and multifamily buildings greater than 20,000 square feet.</li> <li>Explore other policy options and approaches for smaller scale buildings</li> </ul>
<b>Benchmarking Requirement Timeline</b>	Submit Energy Benchmarking Report by: <u>Commercial building &gt;50,000 sq. ft.:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>April 1, 2012 (2011 data)</li> </ul> <u>Commercial &gt;10,000 sq. ft.:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>October 1, 2012</li> </ul> <u>Multifamily buildings with 5 units or more:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>October 1, 2012</li> </ul> <u>All required buildings:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update information annually on April 1</li> </ul>	Submit Energy Benchmarking Report by: <u>Commercial building &gt;50,000 sq. ft.:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>October 3, 2011</li> </ul> <u>Multifamily Buildings &gt;50,000 sq. ft.:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>October 1, 2012</li> </ul> <u>Commercial &amp; Multifamily buildings &gt;20,000 sq. ft.:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>April 1, 2013</li> </ul> <u>All required buildings:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update information annually on April 1</li> </ul>
<b>Enforcement Process</b>	Failure to submit benchmarking report: \$150 citation. If report is not filed within 15 days of citation, the City may issue a notice of violation with a daily penalty (\$150/day for first 10 days, \$500/day thereafter).  Option of administrative review or direct appeal to Hearing Examiner	Failure to submit benchmarking report: Buildings greater than 50,000 sq. ft.: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$1000 fine assessed quarterly up to a maximum of \$4000/reporting year.</li> </ul> Buildings between 20,000 and 50,000 sq. ft.: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$500 fine assessed quarterly up to a maximum of \$2000/reporting year.</li> </ul> Mandatory administrative review before appealing to Hearing Examiner