Fact Sheet

The **Chicago Energy Benchmarking Ordinance** seeks to raise awareness of energy performance through information and transparency, with the goal of unlocking energy and cost savings opportunities for businesses and residents. To comply, covered buildings must track whole-building energy use, report to the City annually, and verify data accuracy every three years.

For more information, please visit www.CityofChicago.org/EnergyBenchmarking.

Which buildings are covered?

The ordinance applies to municipal, commercial, and residential buildings ≥50,000 square feet. Exemptions are available for buildings experiencing financial hardship or low occupancy rates, new construction (previous calendar year), and buildings with specific space uses.

When must buildings comply?

First-time compliance deadlines will phase in over three years based on building size and sector:

Building Sector	Building Size (ft^2)	Required by June 1st of:			
		2014	2015	2016	2017
Non-Residential	≥ 250,000	Benchmark, Verify, Report	Benchmark, Report	Benchmark, Report	Benchmark, Verify, Report
	≥ 50,000		Benchmark, Verify, Report	Benchmark, Report	Benchmark, Report
Residential	≥ 250,000		Benchmark, Verify, Report	Benchmark, Report	Benchmark, Report
	≥ 50,000			Benchmark, Verify, Report	Benchmark, Report

The City will report annually on energy efficiency trends, and the ordinance authorizes the City to share building-specific data with the public after an initial 1-year grace period.

How do I get started?

- Confirm that your building is 250,000 square feet or larger and required to comply this year. (Refer to notification letter or see www.CityofChicago.org/EnergyBenchmarking for details.)

- Identify a **benchmarking lead** (building staff member or 3rd party partner) to coordinate benchmarking, data verification, and reporting. Suggested timing: March 28th, 2014.

- Visit www.CityofChicago.org/EnergyBenchmarking to download the **Compliance Checklist** and step-by-step **Benchmarking Guide**, or to sign up for a **free training.**

- If your building has multiple energy meters and accounts, request **whole-building data**:
  - ComEd (electricity): www.ComEd.com/EnergyTools
  - Peoples Gas (natural gas): www.PeoplesGasDelivery.com/Business/Aggregation.aspx.

Where can I find help?

- **Attend a free training:** schedules and registration links are available online.

- **Contact the Help Center:** Info@ChicagoEnergyBenchmarking.org or call (855) 858-6878.

Support provided by the Chicago Energy Benchmarking Working group:

AIA Chicago | ASHRAE | City of Chicago | Elevate Energy |Energy Center of Wisconsin
Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance | Natural Resources Defense Council | USGBC-Illinois