

USE CASE: WHOLE-BUILDING ENERGY USAGE DATA



Helps building owners understand and improve building energy performance, which local governments may encourage or mandate in order to achieve climate goals and build robust local markets for efficient buildings.

DESCRIPTION

A request for whole-building data will likely ask for total energy usage for a particular building or campus of buildings. It may include the following variations:

- A request for monthly or annual data—while annual data is required for benchmarking, monthly data allows building owners to manage their buildings more effectively in concert with weather.
- A request for cost or demand data—while local governments do not require reporting of this information, making it available directly to building owners can be beneficial to them in managing the building.

ROLE MODELS

→ [COMMONWEALTH EDISON MAKES IT EASY FOR BUILDING OWNERS TO MANAGE ENERGY](#)

BETTER DATA PRACTICES

Cities have identified the following practices as useful:

- Developing a process for verifying that building owners are who they claim to be, such as by requiring letters of authentication.
- Developing a process for aggregating data to ensure that no single tenant is identified. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency research suggests that many utilities allow data to be released to a building owner where there are at least four tenants.¹

BEST DATA PRACTICES

Cities have identified the following practices as industry-leading:

- Providing online interfaces that allow for near-immediate download of data and electronic transfer to the building owner's ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager account.
- Implementing "opt out" rather than "opt in" approaches to treatment of monthly aggregated data, which is less sensitive than other types of energy data. This means that data from tenants would be presumed to be provided to the building owner even where there are few tenants, unless they affirmatively opt out.

POOR DATA PRACTICES

Cities have found the following practices impede the usefulness of whole-building data:

- Requiring wet-ink notarization and/or physical submission of data release forms by individual tenants where required due to the small number of tenants within a particular building.
- Requiring building owners to submit meter numbers associated with all meters physically located in a building.

¹ "ENERGY STAR Data Access Network." ENERGY STAR. https://www.energystar.gov/buildings/program_administrators/commercial_and_industrial_program_sponsors/energy_star_data_access_network — see PPT modules