

Efficient Buildings Collaborative

Hennepin County has developed a program that creates a standardized process for cities to adopt and implement building energy benchmarking and disclosure policies.

Energy benchmarking and disclosure policies require certain buildings to keep track of and report on their energy consumption. Buildings, especially large commercial or multi-tenant residential buildings, comprise 40% of gross regional energy use. Benchmarking energy consumption of such buildings therefore creates an opportunity to identify conservation opportunities and reduce a city's energy consumption.

National statistics show that of the buildings that have benchmarked their energy use for 3-years save on average 7% in annual energy use. Over 50% of energy reduction opportunities are low to no-cost to the building owner. Awareness of building energy use is the first step.

The Energy Buildings Collaborative is available to all Minnesota cities. The peer network will occur from May 2019 through May 2020.

Benefits

- Save money on utilities by reducing energy and water use
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and preserve the environment
- Promote energy efficient buildings
- Streamline and standardize the energy benchmarking process
- Maximize local energy efficiency programs

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Background

Cities across the country have passed energy benchmarking and disclosure policies. Here in Hennepin County, the City of Minneapolis currently requires all large commercial buildings to benchmark energy and water consumption and report usage annually to the city's property information page.

Through a competitive request for proposals, Overlay Consulting was chosen by Hennepin County to provide program implementation services to cities at an economical rate in a standardized process. This contract will allow cities to easily adopt an energy building benchmarking and disclosure policy, helping cities to eliminate the burden of developing their own program

The Program

Hennepin County wants to create a standardized process for cities in the county to adopt an energy benchmarking and disclosure policy. The ordinance text itself will need to be adapted to the specific needs of a city, but there would be certain standardized features for all Hennepin County cities, including:

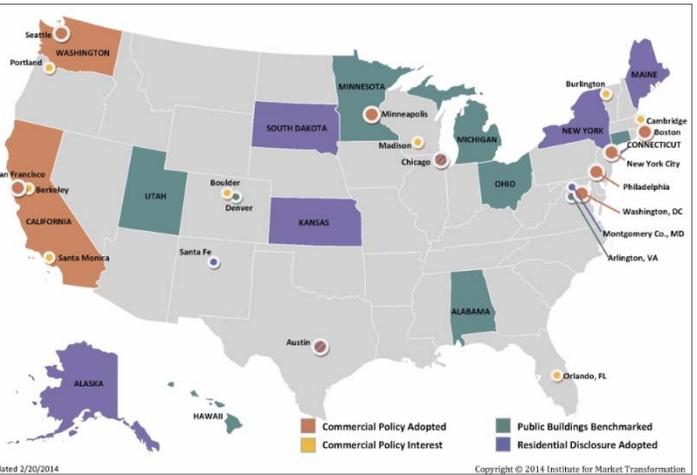


Figure 1. Energy disclosure policies in the United States

1. Disclosure deadlines;
2. Educational resource and helplines;
3. Energy data will be vetted through Overlay;
4. Energy data will be posted on the Hennepin County website.

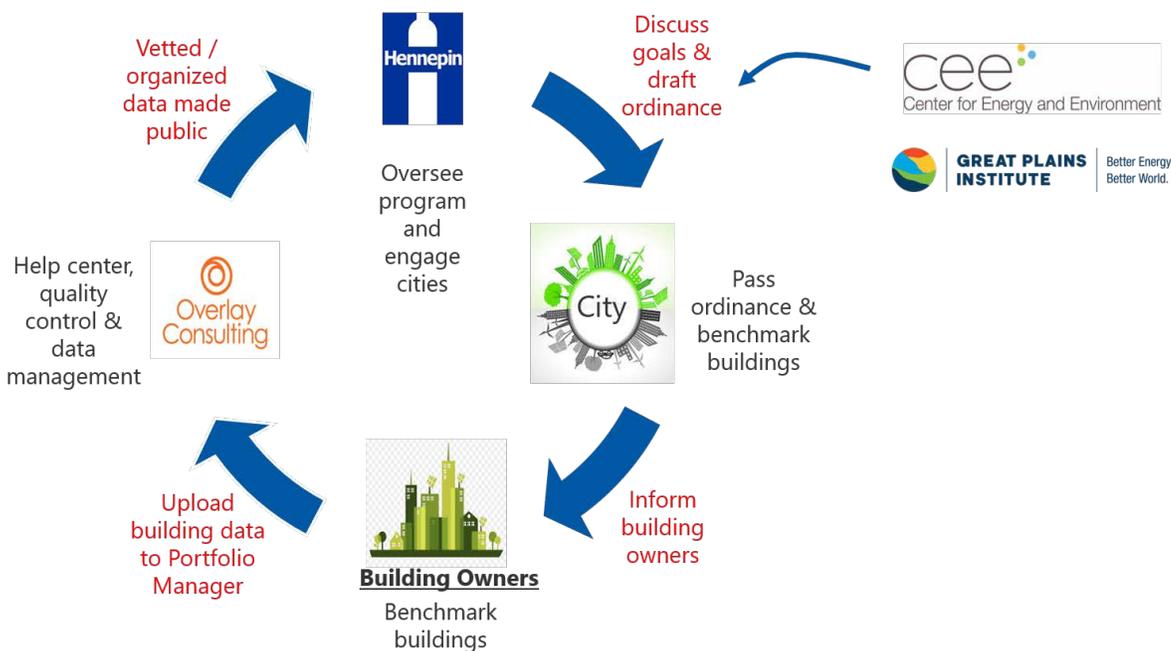


Figure 2. Outline of policy adoption process

