

**City of Minneapolis**  
**Request for Committee Action**

**To:** Health, Environment & Community Engagement  
**Date:** 2/1/2016  
**Referral:** N/A  
**From:** Health Department  
**Prepared by:** Nadia Khan, Environmental Analyst, x3091  
**Presented by:** Nadia Khan  
**File type:** Ordinance  
**Subcategory:** Code Amendment

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**Subject:**

Ordinance change to the “Rules” section of Title 3, Chapter 47.190

**Description:**

Authorizing amendments to Title 3, Chapter 47 of the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances relating to Air Pollution and Environmental Protection: Energy and Air Pollution, clarifying the standards of acceptable energy data and stating the schedule of public disclosure of the received data.

**Previous Actions:**

None

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**Ward/Address:**

All Wards

All properties required to, or are voluntarily, reporting energy data under the ordinance.

**Background/Analysis:**

As the “energy benchmarking” program has matured over the last two years, collecting useful data is becoming increasingly important to the effectiveness of the benchmarking program. The intention of this ordinance is to increase awareness among building owners and the public in general. The information is expected to be used to increase energy efficiency, reduce energy costs, create green jobs and reduce air pollution, in part, through disclosing and sharing energy use information.

**Financial Review:**

**No additional appropriation required, amount included in current budget.**

- Future budget impact anticipated.**
- Approved by the Permanent Review Committee.**
- Meets Small and Underutilized Business Program goals.**

**Attachments:**

1. Ordinance 47.190 Text
2. Report on Compliance Standards for Energy Benchmarking

## Compliance Standards for Energy Benchmarking

City staff researched best practices in other cities on energy benchmarking data quality and on data publication dates to make these recommendations.

### Findings from other Cities regarding Data quality and Publication Date

In 2014 the energy benchmarking program collected the first year of data from commercial properties for reporting year 2013. Once the program started to receive large amounts of data, staff realized building owners needed clear directions about the compliance metrics, acceptable quality of data and the consequences of submitting incomplete data. The City of Minneapolis chose the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Energy Star Portfolio Manager online software program as the benchmarking tool for building owners and managers to use. The Energy Star Portfolio Manager is a complicated tool. The initial account set up is time consuming and requires a high level of computer skills. This along with the difficulty in compiling different pieces of utility data over an entire year period made error in data entry more likely. The first year staff saw a number of building owners or managers submit data that were unreliable or altogether unusable. These were a significant portion of buildings under the City's benchmarking program. To address these issues, staffs suggest that the ordinance include an informed policy which will clearly outline a set of rules for compliance. The Center of Energy and Environment has assisted the City of Minneapolis creating this policy and in establishing criteria for obtaining quality data.

While reviewing best practices from other cities, it became apparent that publication deadline dates are typically not stated within the ordinance (see table). Staff proposes the City of Minneapolis adopt this best practice by removing publication dates from our energy benchmarking ordinance. Instead, publication dates will be publically posted on the city's website. The target date for publication of the data will continue to be early fall (traditionally September 30) but in the event a date change is necessary, the date could be adjusted without requiring an ordinance change.

City	Annual Reporting Deadline	Cut-off Deadline	Public Disclosure Date of Energy Data
Austin	June 1st		no clear date
Chicago	June 1st	August 1st	no clear data; mentioned only in the annual report w/o any date
Minneapolis	June 1st	August 30th	August 30th
Philadelphia	June 30	no date	annual report by sustainability office
Seattle	April 1st	no date	sharing data is owner's responsibility
Washington, DC	April 1st	no set date	On January 28, 2015, DOEE published detailed data on the 2013 energy and water performance of 736 privately owned buildings over 100,000 gross square feet

Staff is proposing that the policy will be posted on the city's website and will be referred as:

## **Compliance Standards for Energy Benchmarking**

Benchmarking information is the energy consumption information for a building. The information requested under the energy benchmarking ordinance must include, but need not be limited to:

1. Minneapolis Building ID & Minneapolis Property ID \*\*
2. Property floor area (within +/-25% of assessor data) \*\*
3. Property type
4. Electricity data (>0)
5. Heating data\* (>0)
6. Water data (>0)
7. Site EUI (Energy Use Intensity) (25-400)
8. Complete/full calendar year (Jan. 1- Dec. 31) meter data for electricity, heat and water use
9. Energy Star Score (5-95) as applicable
10. Total GHG (greenhouse gas) emissions

\*Parking Structures are exempt from reporting heating data

\*\*City provides these data

### **Disclosure and publication of benchmarking information**

The director shall make readily available to the public, and update at least annually, benchmarking information for the previous calendar year according to a publically stated schedule.