



IFMA Energy Challenge: ENERGY STAR FAQs

1. *I have heard that a new Commercial Building Energy Consumption Survey (CBECS) is underway. How does that affect ENERGY STAR?*

ENERGY STAR will continue to function using the models developed using the latest survey's data. The Department of Energy, Energy Information Administration is in the process of designing the survey questionnaire which will be used to collect 2012 energy and building attribute data from buildings across the nation.

Background: ENERGY STAR is a building rating system that compares your building against statistically representative models. The models rely on information gathered in the Commercial Building Energy Consumption Survey (CBECS) which is conducted every four years by the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA). The last survey was conducted in 2007, however the EIA announced that it would not be releasing the results of the 2007 survey.

2. *Why should I create an ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager account?*

Energy is one of the largest controllable operating costs in facilities. ENERGY STAR offers an easy way to track consumption and measure success when implementing energy efficiency measures. For top performing buildings (buildings earning a rating of 75 or higher), it also offers an opportunity to be recognized through the ENERGY STAR building labeling program.

For Federal agencies and in some areas of the U.S., ENERGY STAR benchmarking is mandatory. [Find out what is required in your area.](#)

3. *Why should I share my facility information with IFMA?*

Better benchmarking data – by sharing your data with your IFMA peers, we can compare similar facilities with one another by building type, state, region, etc...and you can see the results.

4. *My facility can't get a rating in ENERGY STAR. Why should I participate?*

Not all facilities can earn the 1-100 rating in ENERGY STAR. If you have one of these non-ratable facilities, not only can you use the system to monitor your energy consumption, you can also band together with your IFMA peers who have similar buildings and compare your performance to them.

5. *What about confidentiality of information? Will organization names be shared?*

Building names will not be shared. Only relevant benchmarking data will be provided such as:

- Building type
- Building location - state, province, or country
- Site energy use intensity (EUI) – annual energy consumption on site, kWh/SF
- National average site EUI – average annual energy consumption of similar facilities, kWh/SF
- Source EUI, weather normalized - annual energy consumption including power generation losses, kWh/SF
- ENERGY STAR rating - building – annual energy consumption on site, kWh/SF

6. I have heard ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager is really difficult to set up. Is that true?

Not at all! It's a very straightforward program.

- First steps - collect basic building data using the ENERGY STAR [Data Collection Worksheet](#) and then follow these [5 steps to get started](#).
- Refer to ENERGY STAR's online [FAQ](#) and [Help](#) or contact buildings@energystar.gov for questions on Portfolio Manager.
- Find [energy incentive programs](#) by state. These programs help offset energy costs while promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies.
- We have the IFMA Foundation [Sustainability How-to Guide: ENERGY STAR](#) available for reference to help you.

7. Can my local utility company upload my energy data into my account?

Yes, if your utility company participates in Automated Benchmarking, you can request that they upload your data into your ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager building profile. For more details, see the IFMA Foundation [Sustainability How-to Guide: ENERGY STAR](#) or go to www.energystar.gov.

8. Why should I join the IFMA Energy Challenge?

- Measure facility energy performance baselines and set improvement goals
- Report and track individual building and portfolio environmental impact, costs and energy performance over time
- Benchmark your energy consumption with other organizations
- Monitor energy and water costs
- Estimate your carbon footprint
- Earn points toward attaining a green building certification
- Gain EPA Recognition
- Comply with city and state mandates requiring building owners to measure energy consumption and publicly disclose scores

9. I have heard that Portfolio Manager is changing. Will that affect my data?

EPA's Portfolio Manager tool is being upgraded. All of your data will be transferred to the new system and the metrics will remain the same. [Visit the new project page](#) to see a project timeline, download a fact sheet, or register for the next quarterly update webinar. The new Portfolio Manager will be rolled out in 2013.