

# ENERGIZE SAINT PAUL BUILDING ENERGY BENCHMARKING REPORT 2022

In 2022, 605 commercial, multifamily, and public buildings over 50,000 square feet benchmarked their 2021 energy and water use, achieving a 90% compliance rate with the City's energy benchmarking ordinance. This is the highest number of buildings benchmarked in the city to-date.

In addition, 89% of successfully benchmarked buildings chose the full data disclosure reporting pathway. The City offers two compliance pathways: full disclosure and partial disclosure. While both pathways take the same amount of work to comply, only full disclosure provides a building's energy performance to the City. Full disclosure provides opportunities to recognize high performers and understand large building energy performance in Saint Paul.

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY LEADERS

Annually, the City of Saint Paul celebrates select property owners and managers for their leadership in energy efficiency. In 2022, the following buildings were recognized:

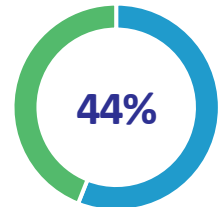
- Court International
- Nuway
- Penfield Apartments
- 400 Building
- 401 Securian
- Prior Works
- Travelers
- Infor Commons
- Spruce Tree Centre

**605** Benchmarked properties

Using in total **10.63 million<sup>1</sup>** MMBtu<sup>2</sup> equal to



**72,181** households

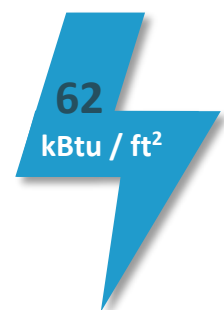
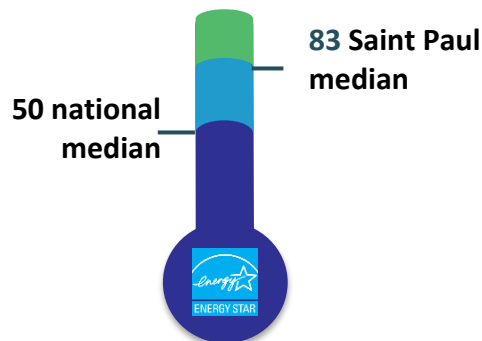


of citywide building energy



**23%**  
of citywide GHG emissions

The buildings showed the following performance:



Median Weather Normalized Site Energy Use Intensity (EUI)

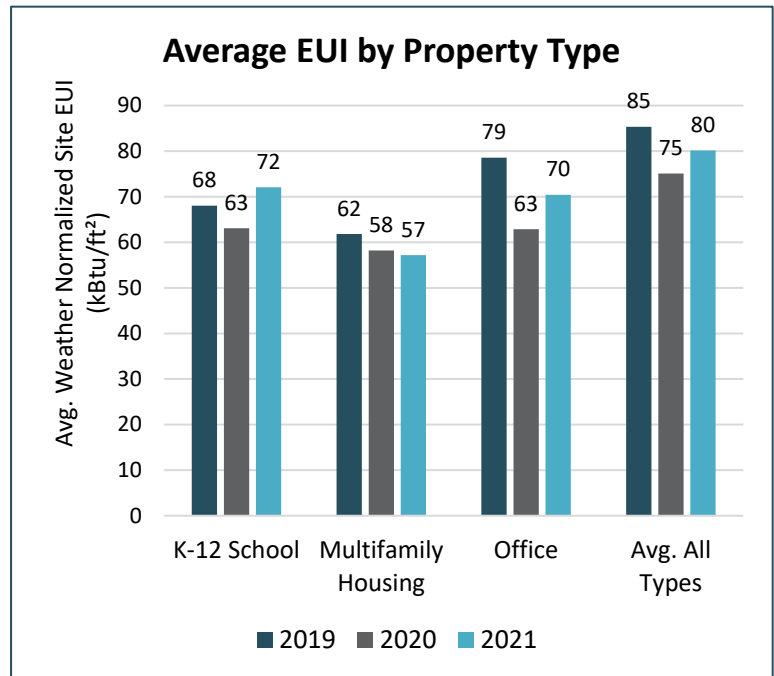
1. 2021 energy use data.  
2. Metric Million British Thermal Units.

## WHAT IS BUILDING BENCHMARKING?

Benchmarking is the ongoing review of building energy and water performance to ensure a building is using energy and water as anticipated -- performance compared to its own anticipated performance over time or the performance of peers. Benchmarking combines two silos of information that have seldomly been merged before: utility meter consumption and building characteristics. By using this information together, we can compare buildings to each other with metrics like Energy Use Intensity (EUI), which measures energy usage per square foot. This information provides new insight to building owners, occupants, and efficiency resource providers that is valuable in building management, investment, sale, and lease decisions.

## COVID Impact Varied by Property Type

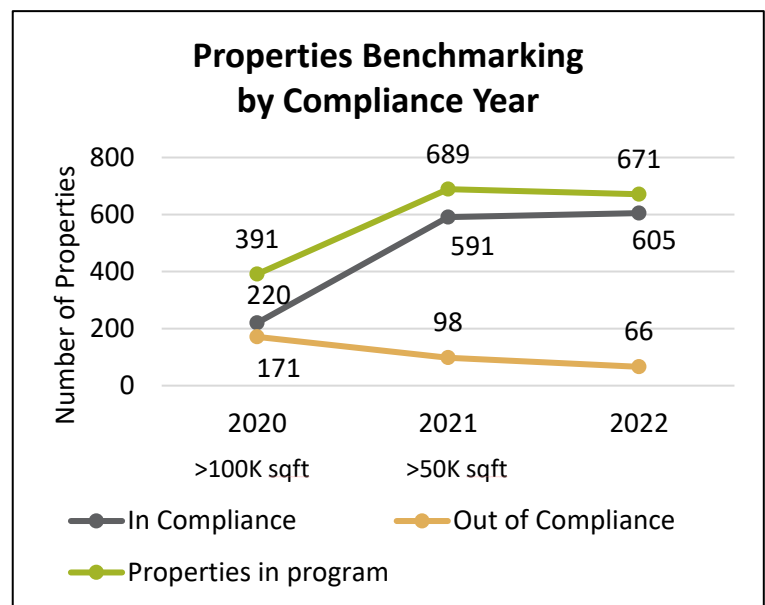
Benchmarking data reported through the years of the COVID-19 Pandemic provides insight into how building energy usage changed among the most common property types in Saint Paul. Schools and office buildings saw a drop in energy use in 2020 as the pandemic necessitated virtual learning and work, but energy usage bounced back in 2021 as in-person classes and work resumed. Despite expected increases in energy use in multifamily housing while people spent more time at home, average energy use intensity (EUI) actually dropped in 2020 and 2021. Among all building types, the pandemic led to reduced average energy consumption in 2020. Although energy usage grew back slightly in 2021, it still remained below pre-pandemic levels.



## Compliance Has Grown Steadily

Saint Paul's energy benchmarking ordinance requires the largest buildings in the city to benchmark their energy and water usage annually. The ordinance, adopted in 2020, initially required buildings over 100,000 square feet to comply. In 2021 the threshold dropped to its current level of 50,000 square feet and above.

Compliance has grown steadily since 2020, reaching a record-high compliance rate of 90% in 2022. The work of building owners and managers to benchmark building performance and make subsequent energy efficiency improvements contributes to Saint Paul achieving its climate goals.



Interested in learning more? Visit [www.stpaul.gov/departments/mayors-office/energize-saint-paul](http://www.stpaul.gov/departments/mayors-office/energize-saint-paul) for information on the benchmarking ordinance, upcoming trainings and events, and energy efficiency resources.