

ENERGY BENCHMARKING FAQs

Q: WHY IS BENCHMARKING AN ANNUAL REQUIREMENT?

A: The purpose of annually benchmarking projects within the HCR portfolio is to gain a better understanding of how the buildings use energy and water, and whether energy efficiency measures that have been implemented within our projects have realized their expected energy savings. It also helps HCR understand how projects are performing compared to similar buildings in New York and in other states.

Q: HOW DO I KNOW IF MY PROJECT IS REQUIRED TO BENCHMARK?

A: See the “covered building” criteria and the Covered Buildings list on the HCR website at <https://hcr.ny.gov/steps-hcr-benchmarking-program>.

Q: MY PROPERTY IS ON THE COVERED BUILDINGS LIST BUT DOES NOT FIT THE DEFINITION OF A COVERED BUILDING.

A: Complete the [HCR Energy Benchmarking Waiver Request Form](#). HCR will review each request and may ask for additional information. For assistance, please contact the Benchmarking Team at hcr.sustainability@nyshcr.org , subject line: Benchmarking Waiver Request Form.

Q: MY PROPERTY IS ALREADY REQUIRED TO BENCHMARK WITH NEW YORK CITY UNDER LOCAL LAW 84, DO I ALSO HAVE TO BENCHMARK WITH HCR?

A: Yes, HCR asks that data submitted for NYC benchmarking in EPA Energy Star Portfolio Manager also be submitted to the HCR Portfolio Manager account via the HCR reporting link found on the website (<https://hcr.ny.gov/steps-hcr-benchmarking-program>).

Q: IS THE EXPENSE OF HIRING AN ENERGY SERVICE PROVIDER AN APPROVED PROJECT BUDGET COST?

A: The cost for hiring a service provider is an HCR approved operating expense and should be a project budget line item moving forward.

Q: WHAT IS THE AVERAGE COST TO HIRE A SERVICE PROVIDER?

A: Currently, the average cost to hire a service provider ranges from \$300 to \$1,000 per building depending on the provider and the size of the project.

Q: CAN HCR RECOMMEND A SERVICE PROVIDER IN MY AREA?

A: HCR cannot recommend a service provider. However, we can provide a list of providers that have been successful with entering energy data into the EPA Portfolio Manager.

Q: WHAT HCR PROGRAMS ARE AVAILABLE TO ASSIST WITH ENERGY PROJECT UPGRADES AND COST SAVINGS?

A: See “Weatherization Assistance Program” details at <https://hcr.ny.gov/weatherization> or contact the Weatherization Assistance Unit at (518) 474-5700 for more information.

Other resources:

[NYSERDA Programs](#)