

An Introduction and Energy Star Building Certification and Partnership

News from Dora Taylor, Regional Program Director for Energy Star in the Northwest Region.

One of my goals is to get as many buildings as possible Energy Star certified in the Seattle area. This is made easier with the required benchmarking of energy usage within the City of Seattle. If the rating of a building is 75 or higher and verified by a third party, the building can be deemed Energy Star Certified. Based on the Energy Benchmarking Dashboard, https://public.tableau.com/s/profile/seattle.benchmarking#!/vizhome/Seattle_Benchmarking_2014_Dashboard_o/EnergyBenchmarkingDashboard, there are a number of buildings that can be certified.

If the building has not scored 75 or higher, there is incentive and support available through Energy Star to increase the score. A business or building owner can become an Energy Star Partner even if the building has a score lower than 75. Part of the partnership commitment is to measure, track and benchmark energy performance and develop and implement a plan to improve energy performance.

To become an Energy Star partner, the building owner or manager fills out an Energy Star Partnership Agreement. There's no cost to partner with Energy Star or use Energy Star promotional materials.

The goal for many building/business owners and managers is to become an Energy Star Partner of the Year which comes with national recognition and a celebratory dinner in Washington DC.

In terms of support to reach those goals, there are rebates and incentives available as well.

There is also Energy Star's Target Finder for existing buildings. The building owner can estimate the impact of upgrades or improvements by entering basic information to see what its 1 – 100 ENERGY STAR score might be.

It's also a useful tool to assess a property being considered for purchase.

There is an Energy Star Cash Flow Opportunity Calculator. It was developed to address the “we don't have the money” objection that many organizations face.

The calculator is useful in addressing three questions about implementing sustainable projects:

1. How much new energy efficiency equipment can be purchased from the anticipated savings.
2. Should the equipment purchase be financed now or is it better to wait and use cash from a future budget and avoid paying interest.
3. Will there be a loss of money by waiting for a lower interest rate

There is also the Building Upgrade Value Calculator. This calculator estimates the impact of proposed investments on an office building's Energy Star score.

This video can also provide IFMA and BOMA members with information on the *Top 5 Reasons to Get ENERGY STAR Certification for Your Building or Plant* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gwVkBcljBho>.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Dora Taylor, Regional Program Manager
ENERGY Star Program | US EPA, Region 10
taylor.dora@epa.gov
503.326.2678