



BUILDING PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT BOARD MEETING NOTES

Wednesday, October 16, 2024

In attendance:

Name	In-Person	Virtual	Role
Emily Curley	x		DEP staff liaison
Sheena Oliver	x		DEP staff
Cuiyin Wu		x	DEP staff
Lewis Morgante		x	DEP staff
Stan Edwards	x		DEP staff
Rhett Tatum		x	Member
Daniel Cleverdon			Member
Amanda MacVey			Member
Andrew Rivas			Member
Lawrence Carroll		x	Member
Vacant - Nonresidential Building Owner or Manager			Member
Jill Goodrich		x	Member
Luke Lanciano		x	Member
Adam Landsman			Member
Mike Dieterich		x	Member
Julie Wolfington		x	Member
Josh McClelland			Member, Deputy Chair
Vacant -Representative of Local Electricity or Natural Gas Utility			Member
Kevin Walton	x		Member, Chair
Gregory Goldstein		x	Member
Lindsey Shaw	x		Ex officio member (DEP)
Bryan Bomer		x	Ex officio member (DPS)
Michael Yambrach		x	Ex officio member (DGS)
Don Scheuerman		x	DGS

Alyssa Mrvos		x	DPS
Henry Jordan		x	Member of the public

Administrative items

Rhett Tatum moved to approve meeting minutes from 9/18/24. Jill Goodrich seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously.

- **CY 2023 Energy Benchmarking Report**

DEP released the annual energy benchmarking report on Oct 1, as required by law and reviewed it with members during the meeting. The report can be viewed at <https://bit.ly/MCbenchmarkingCY2023>.

Members suggested that the snapshot of current performance should show metrics all in the same unit to make it easier to see the breakdown between electricity and natural gas of total energy use among reported covered buildings.

- **New Public Data Tools**

DEP reviewed two new public data tools that are now available to help building owners and the general public explore the results of energy benchmarking and to gauge each covered building's performance relative to proposed performance standards.

- Benchmarking / Building Performance Map: <https://mcbeps.org/>
- Target Look-Up Tool: <https://target-finder.mcbeps.org/>

- **County / State Benchmarking Guidance**

MDE has been holding a series of Benchmarking and Reporting Working Group Sessions (sign up [here](#) for the BEPS informational sessions.) During these meetings they have been reviewing [Draft Guidance for Benchmarking in ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager](#) and soliciting feedback from stakeholders.

MDE welcomes your constructive feedback on how to make this Draft Benchmarking Guide more helpful for all BEPS covered building owners. If you're interested in providing feedback on the draft guidance, please complete this [form](#).

MDE (in consultation with DEP) has also released "Draft MDE Statewide BEPS and Montgomery County DEP Benchmarking Alignment Guidance:"

https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/air/ClimateChange/Documents/MoCo%20%20MDE%20Guidance_2024-10-07_for%20working%20group.pdf

MDE seeking feedback on this guide by November 8, 2024 using this [form](#) and it will be one of the topics of the Benchmarking and Reporting Working Group Session on that date.

Members reviewed this new guide and made a few suggestions/observations:

1. If allowed in the regs, consider aligning treatment of parking and pools to align between the county and the state. Though the reporting is the same, currently MDE intends to *exclude* the parking/pool use by subtracting it from the building's energy use when calculating the

performance metric while DEP intends to *add* the estimated parking/pool energy use as an adjustment to the final performance standard.

2. Add a flow-chart or diagram to the text description to help reporters understand how/when to use which method of omitting/deducting/estimating these uses.
3. Members were supportive of the updated guidance that relies on putting any food service deductions into the custom use fields rather than having to create negative meters. This change helps to retain one Portfolio Manager record that can be reported to both DEP and MDE and also maintains whole building energy use if the building is seeking ENERGY STAR certification or other green building certification.
4. Clarify the County requirements around data verification to note that Montgomery County does not require third party benchmarking and potentially add a list of accepted verification credentials that are accepted by each program to note the overlaps.

In addition to feedback on the guidance document, members suggested that doing outreach, education, and webinars with reporters and local trade organizations would help to answer questions and encourage good data that is reported appropriately per this new guidance.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 20 at 11 am on Zoom.

For additional information, please visit the Building Energy Performance Standards website at <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/green/energy/beps.html> or contact DEP at energy@montgomerycountymd.gov.