

1. Describe the proposed ordinance or resolution. File number: _____

The purpose of the Milwaukee Efficient Buildings Benchmarking Program, or the benchmarking ordinance, is for building owners to better track and understand their buildings' energy use – both over time, and as it compares to the energy usage in other similar buildings across the U.S. Having this knowledge and awareness encourages building owners to improve the energy efficiency of their buildings. Energy benchmarking is simply measuring and tracking annual energy use. The information that benchmarking provides helps building owners and managers make more informed decisions about building operations and actions to save energy and money. This ordinance will allow ECO to better understand what buildings need more assistance with energy efficiency, and will allow for the development of targets for energy use in buildings in the future.

2. Identify the anticipated equity impacts, if any, of this proposal.

This ordinance will require buildings that are not currently measuring and tracking the energy used in their buildings to invest time to enter data on their buildings, including address, square footage, building type and information regarding their buildings' energy use in the free Energy Star Portfolio Manager tool, which is managed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. However, just beginning to track such energy use data has been shown to reduce energy use, which in turn reduces energy costs for building owners and tenants.

3. Identify which minority groups, if any, may be negatively or positively impacted by the proposal.

Similar to above, this may be a new requirement for building owners and managers to need to track and report this data each year. However, building owners and managers paying energy bills, as well as tenants paying energy bills, should see a reduction in energy use and therefore, money spent on energy/utility bills.

4. Describe any engagement efforts with minority communities potentially impacted by the proposal.

This ordinance was recommended as among the ten Big Ideas in the Climate and Equity Plan, which was developed over almost four years of research, analysis and community engagement, through the Climate and Equity Plan Work Groups as well as through dozens of community meetings organized by the City of Milwaukee Environmental Collaboration Office when the Climate and Equity Plan was in draft form, starting in fall 2022, through to its being finalized and adopted in June 2023.

5. Describe how any anticipated equity impacts of the proposal will be documented or evaluated.

ECO will develop a Commercial Buildings Help Desk and Resource Center, with the assistance of a consultant which will have sophisticated software tools to track each phone call and email interaction with building owners contacting the Help Desk for assistance with compliance with the ordinance, as well as noting what they need assistance with. So that will provide ECO with a good record of equity impacts.

6. Describe strategies that will be used, if any, to mitigate any anticipated equity impacts.

In addition to the Energy Efficiency services provided by We Energies to help building owners get started with benchmarking energy use in their buildings, which was highlighted during a series of 4 Community Conversation meetings about this ordinance and program that took place from April to June 2024, ECO will also be funding a Commercial Building Help Desk and Resource Center to provide building owners with resources like training videos and resources to identify incentives for making their buildings more energy efficient, and will have someone available during regular business hours to provide one-on-one assistance to building owners to benchmark their buildings and comply with the ordinance.

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Date: 6/24/24

Please use this page to expand on items 1-6 as needed.

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