

# SUSTAINABLE ROCHESTER

## BUILDING ENERGY BENCHMARKING

### REPORT 2021

#### PROGRAM PROGRESS

Since 2019, The City of Rochester's voluntary benchmarking program has had over 100 buildings participate annually. Given the high participation in the voluntary program, the City is exploring developing a benchmarking ordinance that would make benchmarking an annual requirement for the largest buildings in the city. Mandatory programs in other Minnesota cities typically have participation greater than 80% and are able to engage with hundreds of buildings. By benchmarking, Rochester building owners are taking an important first step to improve building energy management and efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

#### NEW PARTICIPANTS JOIN AS EFFICIENCY LEADERS

In total, 19 new properties joined the benchmarking program this year. Four of the new entrants stood out as ENERGY STAR Certification eligible with ENERGY STAR Scores of 75 or higher:

- The Berkman – 100
- Town Place Suites by Marriott – 98
- Home2 Suites – 96
- Wells Fargo Center – 75

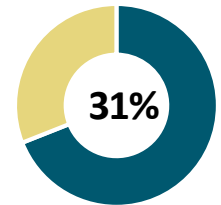
# 143

 Benchmarked properties

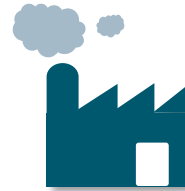
used about 3.83 million MMBtu of energy, equal to the energy consumed by:



19,544 households

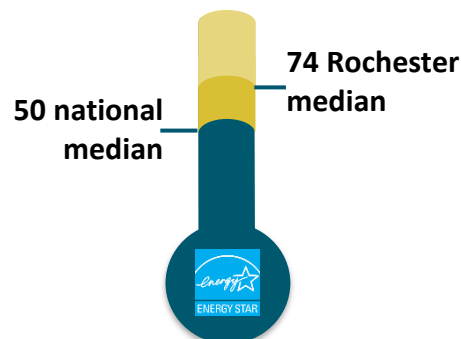


31% of citywide building energy

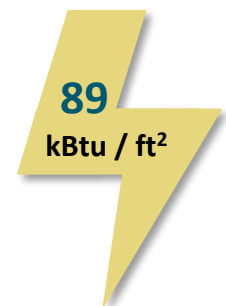


12 percent of citywide GHG emissions

The buildings had the following performance:



ENERGY STAR Score



Median Site Energy Use Intensity (EUI)

# WHAT IS BUILDING BENCHMARKING?

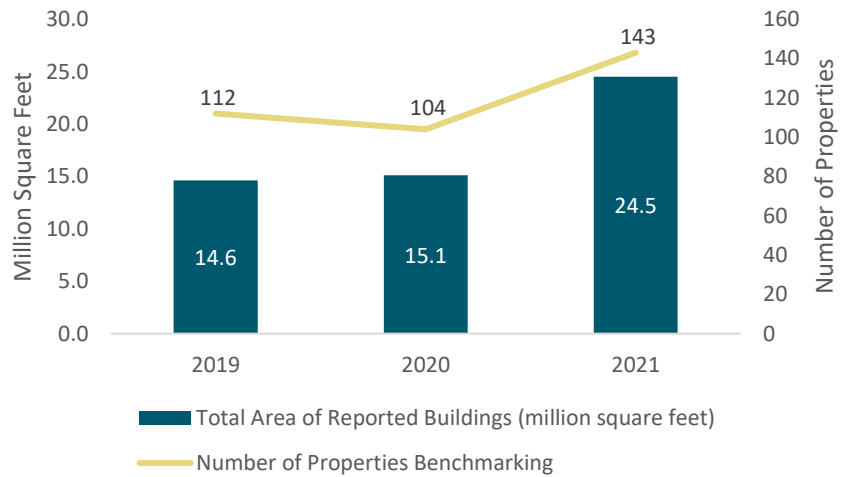
Benchmarking is the ongoing review of building energy and water performance to ensure a building is using energy and water as anticipated -- performance compared to its own anticipated performance over time or the performance of peers. Benchmarking combines two silos of information that have often never been merged before: utility meter consumption and building characteristics. When used together, this information provides new insight to building owners, occupants, and efficiency resource providers that is valuable in building management, investment, sale, and lease decisions.

## Program Participation and Trends

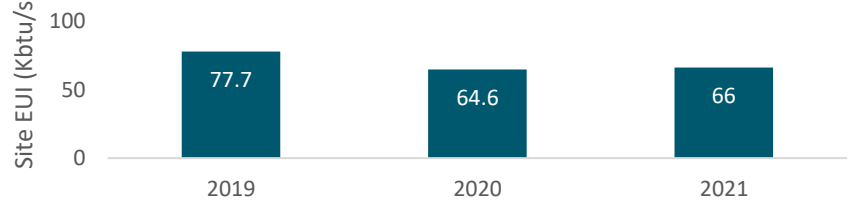
Rochester building owners and managers benchmarked 143 facilities representing about 31% percent of city-wide energy use in 2021. For the first time, the Mayo Clinic benchmarked the energy use of its entire 34-building campus, instead of the 18 largest buildings only. This change led to a large increase in the total square feet and energy consumption benchmarked in 2021.

When analyzing buildings that were benchmarked consistently in 2019, 2020, and 2021, we see a significant drop in energy use in 2020. This decrease can largely be explained by low occupancy due to Covid-19 and facilities managers reducing their building's energy use accordingly. Although energy usage grew back slightly in 2021 as in person activities returned, it still remained below pre-pandemic levels.

Properties and Floor Area Benchmarking by Year



Median Site EUI of Consistently Benchmarked Properties



## Benchmarking Energy Efficiency Program Grants

In 2021 the City of Rochester offered \$30,000 in energy efficiency improvement grants to benchmarking participants through the Rochester Benchmarking Energy Efficiency Program (RBEEP). Over \$150,000 was requested across six grant applications for the \$30,000 of available funding. All six applicants were awarded funding with priority given to minority/women owned businesses and organizations and/or community organizations serving minority populations. Proposed energy efficiency projects included LED lighting retrofits and upgrades, HVAC upgrades, smart thermostats, and insulation.

### Grant Awardees Include:



**Interested in participating?** Contact the City of Rochester's Sustainability Coordinator, Lauren Jensen: [ljensen@rochestermn.gov](mailto:ljensen@rochestermn.gov)

