



**CHANGE FOR THE  
BETTER WITH  
ENERGY STAR**

Buildings that earn the ENERGY STAR® prevent greenhouse gas emissions by meeting strict energy efficiency guidelines set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.  
[www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov)

## IMPROVE BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND EARN THE ENERGY STAR

# U.S. EPA'S ENERGY PERFORMANCE RATING SYSTEM

EPA's energy performance rating, which is accessible online through Portfolio Manager, will rate the energy efficiency of your college and university residence halls on a scale from 1 to 100.

The system allows you to measure the energy performance of your facilities and compare them with similar buildings across the United States. Using data that you provide online, the system produces a baseline rating.

Once you have established a baseline for each residence hall, you can use resources available at no cost from ENERGY STAR to help prioritize your investments, set goals, and track your energy management success.

### **Compare to Buildings Across the Country**

The energy performance rating system from ENERGY STAR is normalized for location and the impacts of year-to-year weather variations. This puts a building on the same playing field as others, even if it is located in a particularly hot or cold climate, or has been subjected to unusually harsh weather in the past year.

The rating system also controls for building size and certain operating characteristics. For residence halls, these include number of rooms, year built, gross square footage, percent mechanically cooled, presence of cooking facilities, and others.

### **Compare Performance Over Time**

The first rating establishes a baseline against which energy managers can measure the results of their energy efficiency efforts year after year. Each additional rating shows improved performance due to small- or large-scale operational changes as well as major energy efficiency upgrades.

Over time, Portfolio Manager tracks the energy use, costs, and emissions associated with running residence halls. As utility bills come in, building managers can immediately update their portfolio and be sure they have an accurate assessment.

### **Compare All Residence Halls in a Single Portfolio**

Having the online rating system within Portfolio Manager lets energy managers compare the performance of all their residence halls in a single view. The rating for each building in the portfolio provides a starting point for prioritizing energy efficiency investments.

Data display features in Portfolio Manager make it easy to compare and track various groups of buildings, to share the data in a secure environment, and to print reports or export them to Microsoft Excel®.

Results from EPA's energy performance rating system can help building managers make decisions about commissioning equipment, changing operations and maintenance procedures, and investing



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**Portfolio Manager**

**Assess Building Performance**

Manage your entire portfolio of buildings online and take control of your energy performance. Whether you own, manage, or hold properties for investment, Portfolio Manager can help you to make smart energy choices. Portfolio Manager's many functions include:

+ **Benchmarking:** Rate the performance of your buildings on a scale of 1-100 relative to similar buildings nationwide using ENERGY STAR's national energy performance rating system. The rating system accounts for the

**ANNOUNCING**  
The New Portfolio Manager

[Take Portfolio Manager Tour](#)

[APPLY for the ENERGY STAR for Your Buildings](#)

[Statement of Energy Performance](#)

[Support Documents on Benchmarking](#)

+ [Professional Engineer's Guide](#) (459KB)

+ [Indoor Air for Schools](#)

[Guidelines for Energy Management](#)

[Tools & Resources](#)

+ [Portfolio Manager](#)

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## A WELL-TESTED RATING SYSTEM

Since 1999, managers of almost 19,000 facilities—including office buildings, K-12 schools, hotels and motels, hospitals, medical offices,

and supermarkets—have rated the energy performance of their buildings using EPA's system.

As of 2004, the rating system also includes courthouses, residence halls, bank branches, and warehouses.

Last year, Americans with the help of ENERGY STAR prevented greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to those from 18 million automobiles and saved more than \$9 billion on their energy bills.

in future energy efficiency projects. Partners have learned that EPA's rating provides valuable information to managers at all levels, empowering them to make sound decisions about energy management.

### Start the Process with One Year of Monthly Energy Data

Portfolio Manager can evaluate any residence hall that has been occupied for at least 9 of the preceding 12 months and has 12 consecutive months of energy use data. For a single building, the system offers a Web-based interface to enter readings of electricity, gas, oil, steam, and other energy types.

For managers with a large number of residence halls, a spreadsheet template is available on the ENERGY STAR Web site to import data for the entire stock of buildings all at once into Portfolio Manager to be rated. To learn more or to get started, visit [www.energystar.gov/benchmark](http://www.energystar.gov/benchmark).

### Earn the ENERGY STAR and Demonstrate Environmental Leadership

When a residence hall receives a rating of 75 or better and meets indoor air quality and lighting level requirements, it earns the ENERGY STAR. Following the application process, EPA will deliver a handsome metal plaque to affix to

each top performing building. Partners across the nation take great pride in having the ENERGY STAR on their buildings. It symbolizes their commitment to environmental protection through energy efficiency. Energy-efficient buildings demand less energy, thus reducing the need to burn fossil fuels and preventing associated emissions.

ENERGY STAR also helps you promote your successful efforts to the media and your community. The online Communications Kit has ideas for planning outreach strategies and activities, along with sample language and examples from other partners. For details, visit "Business Improvement" at [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov).