

### **How much does it cost to participate in the Benchmarking Program?**

The Benchmarking Program is available to provide up to three years of free benchmarking services to eligible schools. There are no fees or costs associated with participating in the Benchmarking Program.

### **What is the URL for the Benchmarking Program website?**

The Benchmarking Program website can be found here. This website has general information about the Benchmarking Program. The solicitation website (PON 3908) can be found here. This website has links to the full solicitation, application and associated documents.

### **Is the application available on the website? If so, what is the due date for the application?**

Yes, the application is posted on the Benchmarking Program (PON 3908) website. Applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis dependent on resource availability until March 31, 2022 3:00 PM Eastern Time.

### **Can NYSEG customers participate in the Benchmarking Program?**

To be eligible to participate in the Benchmarking Program, buildings must be located in New York State, and pay into the Systems Benefit Charge (SBC) on their electric utility bill. NYSEG customers pay into the Systems Benefit Charge (SBC) on their electric utility bill and are eligible to participate in the Benchmarking Program.

### **Are Suffolk County schools eligible to participate in the Benchmarking Program?**

Schools in Suffolk County are not eligible to participate in the Benchmarking Program because they do not pay into the Systems Benefit Charge (SBC) on their electric utility bill.

### **Is there a specific benefit going with Option One or Option Two?**

No, it is school specific. For Option One, the school will enter their utility data into the Benchmarking Tool every six months with support from their Benchmarking Consultant. For Option Two, the school will provide utility data to the Benchmarking Consultant and the Benchmarking Consultant will enter the school's utility data into the Benchmarking Tool every six months. In both cases, the school will receive training on using the benchmarking tool and the Benchmarking Consultant will provide the school with an Energy Baseline Report, Biannual Benchmarking Reports, and will schedule biannual check-in calls to review benchmarking results.

If school staff would like to be more hands-on and involved in the benchmarking process, Option One would suit their needs. If school staff are time constrained and would like to streamline the benchmarking process, Option Two would suit their needs.

### **Can we give authorization to our consultant to pull the energy usage from our utility company?**

Yes, you may work directly with your Benchmarking Consultant to authorize them to pull the energy usage from your utility company.

### **Can the Benchmarking Tool directly export my data already in EPA Energy Star?**

Yes, the Benchmarking Tool has the functionality to pull data from a school's pre-existing Energy Star Portfolio Manager account.

### **Is there a way to enter historic benchmarking data into the Benchmarking Tool?**

The Benchmarking Program only requires 12-months of historic utility data to be entered into the Benchmarking Tool. If a school is interested in uploading additional historic data into the Benchmarking Tool, please contact P12Schools@nyscrda.ny.gov.

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**Our District has five school buildings and one district office. Is participation limited to one building per district?**

There is no limit to the number of schools per district that are eligible to utilize the benchmarking services. NYSERDA reserves the right to accept or reject any of the applications received.

**Is there a limit to the number of schools per district that can participate in the Operational Assessment?**

Initially, one school building per school district may request to receive an Operational Assessment. Operational Assessments for additional school buildings may be requested and will be completed dependent on resource availability and lessons learned from the first assessment.

**The Benchmarking Program is available for three years. If a school signs up in two years, will they only receive one year of benchmarking services?**

Each applicant will receive three years of benchmarking services, regardless of when they sign-up for the Benchmarking Program.

**What happens to the historical data & reports after the three-year period of the PON?**

NYSERDA intends to archive benchmarking data and reports from the Benchmarking Tool and utilize the data to inform future P-12 efforts. If a school is interested in accessing the data once the program ends, please contact [P12Schools@nyserderda.ny.gov](mailto:P12Schools@nyserderda.ny.gov).

**Will there be an option to continue to use the Benchmarking Tool after the program ends?**

Yes, you may work directly with the Benchmarking Tool provider to continue services after the Benchmarking Program ends. If you decide to extend services with the Benchmarking Tool provider beyond three years, you will be required to arrange separate financing and contracting agreements with the Benchmarking Tool provider.

**Will any of the data, statistics or conclusions be made available to the public?**

Schools have the option to show specific Benchmarking Program data with the public in a web-based report. Schools may anonymize or hide their school's name from the web-based report. The type of data included in the web-based report includes the school name, benchmark score, energy use intensity, building size and number of utility meters.

In addition, schools will receive Biannual Benchmarking Reports, which are specific to each school building and summarize energy usage, greenhouse gas emissions, and costs over time. These reports will illustrate overall trends across all utilities and greenhouse gas emissions to serve as a resource to make informed energy improvements. If interested, schools may choose to share these Biannual Benchmarking Reports with the public.

NYSERDA will make statistics and conclusions available to the public in the form of Benchmarking Program fact sheets and case studies.