



National Association of State Energy Officials
Board of Directors Resolution on Access to Whole-Building
Energy Data and Automated Benchmarking

WHEREAS, the 56 State and Territory Energy Offices and the National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO) have long recognized the importance of energy efficiency in the development of both state and national energy policies;

WHEREAS, homes and commercial buildings are America's largest energy-consuming sector – together using over 40 percent of the nation's energy, two-thirds of our electricity consumption, one-eighth of our water use;

WHEREAS, increasing building energy efficiency is an important objective for our country;

WHEREAS, studies show that building energy efficiency improvements enhance the affordability, security, comfort, and health and safety of buildings and can generate net positive cash flow for building owners;

WHEREAS, whole-building energy benchmarking is an important tool that enables commercial building owners and managers to identify energy performance issues in buildings, undertake energy management actions and cost-effective improvements in buildings, track energy performance over time, and set energy performance goals;

WHEREAS, energy-efficient buildings provide energy, economic, and environmental benefits for many years, and enhance our national security by reducing our dependence on foreign sources of energy;

WHEREAS, a number of States and utilities are utilizing the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager, an automated benchmarking tool, that protects customer data privacy and increases benchmarking data accuracy and reporting consistency;

WHEREAS, more than 80,000 buildings were benchmarked in 2010 using performance assessment software from the EPA's ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager program, the nation's most widely used benchmarking program;

WHEREAS, demand reductions motivated by data access and benchmarking allow utility and non-utility programs to drive greater energy efficiency results per program dollar, increasing the cost- effectiveness of overall portfolios;

WHEREAS, demand reductions motivated by benchmarking can result in direct cost savings to customers and peak load reductions that benefit all taxpayers and ratepayers;

WHEREAS, NASEO, the only national non-profit association representing the governor-designated energy officials from each of the 56 states and territories, support voluntary whole-building benchmarking and measures that promote whole-building benchmarking;

WHEREAS, new regulations in such states as Alabama, California, Connecticut, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Utah, and Washington require benchmarking of publicly and/or privately-owned commercial facilities;

WHEREAS, The Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 requires benchmarking as a prerequisite for commercial leases signed by the Federal Government, which leases more than 300 million square feet of commercial space nationally;

WHEREAS, access to aggregated building energy usage data by commercial building owners may be difficult to obtain and may be a significant barrier to whole building benchmarking because the data resides in multiple utility accounts with multiple tenants and utilities may require the consent of each tenant customer to release or even aggregate the data.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO) acknowledges the need for commercial building owners and managers to access whole-building energy consumption data to support voluntary energy-efficient building operational improvements; and be it further

RESOLVED, that NASEO encourages states seeking to capture cost-effective energy savings from commercial buildings to consider a comprehensive benchmarking policy that includes:

- Use of EPA ENERGY STAR automated benchmarking services and other benchmarking services, such as the Commercial Building Energy Consumption Survey;
- Adopting methodologies to consistently and accurately credit program impact to benchmarking-driven energy efficiency programs; and
- Taking all reasonable measures to facilitate convenient, electronic, periodic, automated, and secure access to utility energy usage data for building owners, including aggregated building data that does not reveal customer-specific data to protect individual customer privacy, as well as the sharing of customer-specific data to the extent provided for under State law and regulations.

Recommended by NASEO's Buildings Committee and adopted by the NASEO Board of Directors on July 22, 2015.