

Help Public Buildings Save Energy and Money

Buildings consume approximately 40 percent of total energy use in the United States. Energy efficiency is an easy way to save dollars, but how does one decide where to make efficiency improvements? Through strategic planning, building managers can use public funds effectively to make public buildings more energy efficient.

Benchmarking identifies potential energy savings by comparing the current buildings' energy use to an energy code compliant building. This increases awareness and helps building managers obtain information about the status and trend of Iowa's building energy use. By making energy performance measurable and visible, building managers and organizations can take actions to improve the efficiency of buildings by identifying where weaknesses lie and allocating dollars to those projects.

Benchmarking is the first step in a three-step process to use energy efficiency to save money for public buildings.



TRACK
ENERGY USAGE



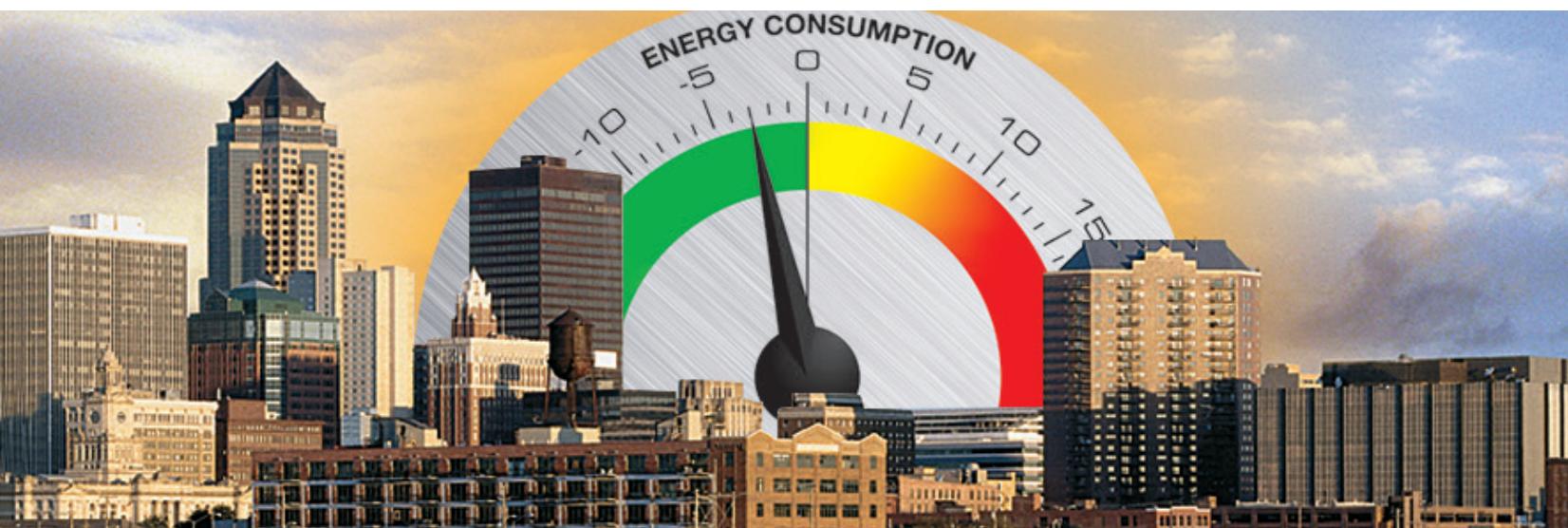
REVIEW
DATA



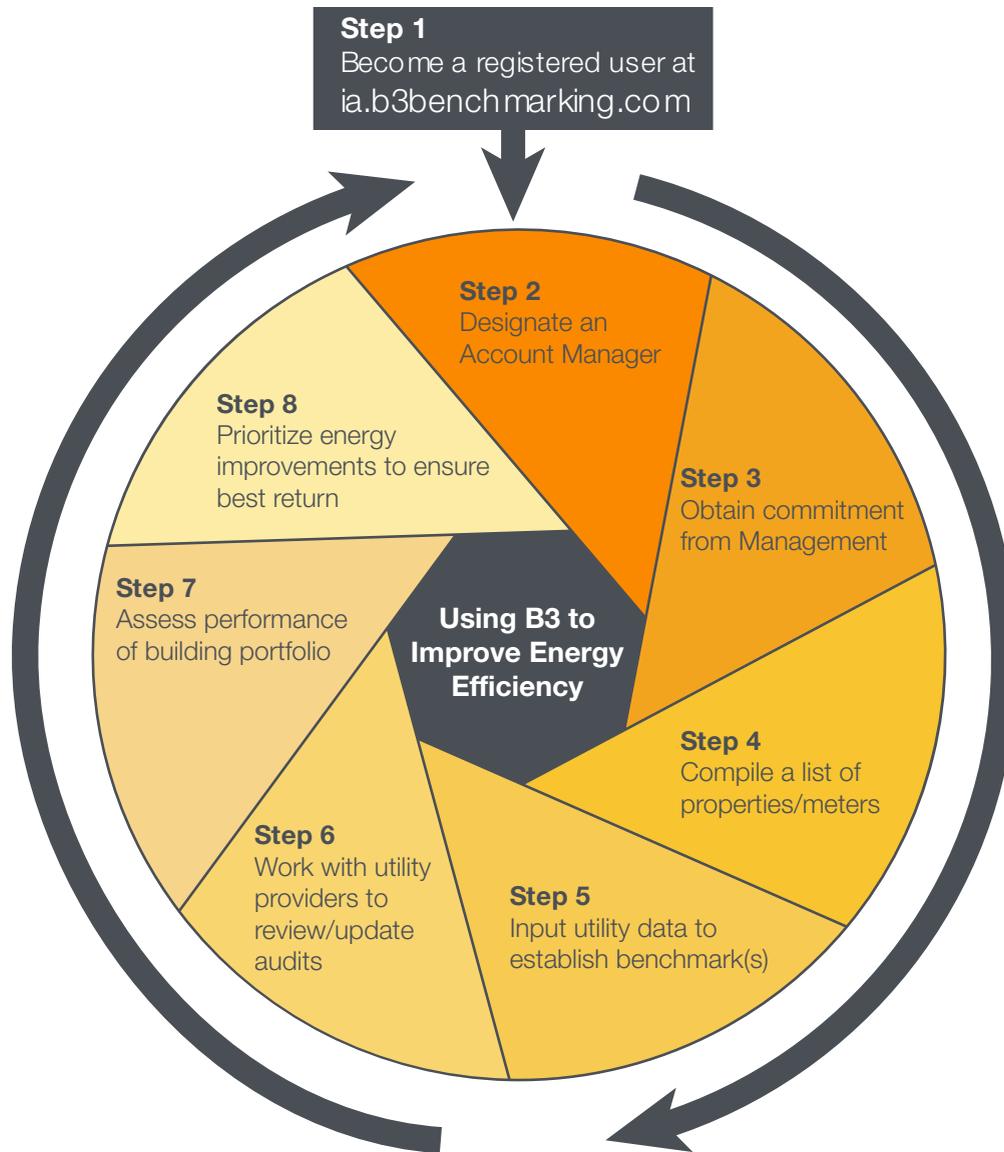
IMPLEMENT
PROJECTS FOR SAVINGS

Benefits of Building Energy Benchmarking

- An “apples to apples” comparison of similar public buildings state and nationwide.
- Measure and track energy use across the portfolio and identify variances in buildings' performances.
- Lastly and most importantly, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) found that buildings that were benchmarked consistently reduced energy use by an average of 2.4 percent per year.



Iowa's B3 Benchmarking Tool



Energy Reports

The B3 Benchmarking system provides simple reports using monthly utility billing and some basic facility data. Output includes the following information:

- **Benchmark view** displays energy consumption as if buildings were built to the current energy code.
- **Peer Comparison view** displays how your buildings compare to buildings with similar space usage.
- **ENERGY STAR® view** displays how energy star buildings compare nationally.
- **Baseline view** allows for buildings to be stack ranked to show variations of energy use between years.
- **Improvement view** allows for energy targets to be set for organizations and sites.
- **Reports view** enables users to create visual reports displaying fuel sources, emissions, and energy use.
- **Water Mode view** allows users to easily identify consumption of water at each site.
- **Summary view** displays high-level organizational information and completeness.