



**BetterBuildings**  
OTTAWA



## Ottawa's Better Buildings Strategy takes the next step forward with the deployment of GRID

Ottawa will use the innovative 'climate tech' software to track emissions and support building owners in becoming more energy efficient.

**June 20, 2022** — Ottawa building owners and managers will soon have one-click access to detailed information on how their buildings are performing, helping them lower their properties' greenhouse gas emissions.

They will do so because [OPEN Technologies](#), a Canadian software developer of climate tech solutions, recently licensed its [GRID](#) benchmark and disclosure software to Ottawa as one of the first actions in the "[Better Buildings Strategy](#)".

"The voluntary benchmarking program encourages building owners and managers to measure and report their energy and carbon emissions and will help owners and managers to identify opportunities for operational efficiency improvements and retrofit projects." says Janice

Ashworth, program manager for the Better Buildings Strategy at the City of Ottawa. “Adding the GRID software is an innovative way to not only increase energy and carbon literacy in the local real estate market but also to gather information needed to finetune our future programs so they can have the biggest impact.”

The [Better Buildings Ottawa benchmarking program](#) will use GRID to enable building owners and managers to voluntarily submit energy usage data and learn how their properties rank on energy and emissions relative to their peers. GRID’s powerful analysis and data-visualization capabilities will provide valuable energy insights reports to those owners to make more informed investments in their assets when the time comes. It will also provide the city with new insights not previously available on where and how buildings in Ottawa consume energy and emit carbon.

“We are really excited to have our first city level deployment of GRID in Ontario be with the City of Ottawa, who have shown a tremendous commitment to fighting climate change with the adoption of Better Buildings Ottawa Strategy,” said Donovan Woollard, the CEO of OPEN Technologies.

Ottawa joins 16 BC jurisdictions, the City of Calgary, the province of Nova Scotia, and the Canada Green Building Council—all of which are using GRID to manage their building benchmarking programs.

“Using a cutting-edge tool like GRID as one of the first steps in the Better Buildings Ottawa Strategy demonstrates that Ottawa is going to use the most advanced tools and apply the best intelligence available, in cooperation with our building community, to combat climate change,” said Councilor Scott Moffatt, chair of the City of Ottawa’s Standing Committee on Environmental Protection, Water and Waste Management.

This is the first step in the City of Ottawa’s Better Buildings Strategy, which aims to catalyze deep energy retrofits within large commercial and multi-unit residential properties. Beginning with benchmarking and public disclosure, the City is seeking to make energy reporting the norm moving forward. Down the line, energy performance disclosure may become mandatory for Ottawa-area buildings.

GRID has strived to provide Canadian jurisdictions with a rigorous, consistent, and comparable platform to run energy benchmarking and disclosure programs since 2019, when Natural Resources Canada provided initial software development funding for this purpose. GRID represents the next step in that federal department’s work to maximize the rich potential of

ENERGY STAR™Portfolio Manager as a reporting tool for individual buildings. Through helping jurisdictions like Ottawa to aggregate performance data from thousands of ENERGY STAR™Portfolio Manager accounts, GRID supports municipalities in driving energy and emissions reductions in their communities and achieving overall climate plans.

*OPEN Technologies builds data tools to help the people that shape our cities to make pro-climate decisions with confidence.*

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