



Building Energy and Emissions Pilot Marks Steady Growth

Thanks to strong uptake, the Building Benchmark BC database now captures the energy and GHG emissions of 1,163 buildings, representing 8.4+ million square metres of floor space.

March 1, 2022 – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE — A steadily growing number of British Columbia building owners are positioning their properties for forthcoming standards in building energy and carbon management by voluntarily reporting their emissions and energy use on a public interactive website.

The Building Benchmark BC Year Two Annual Report, released today, tracks steady uptick in the program's second year among both property owners and jurisdictions. Total registered buildings more than doubled over the first year, the report finds, while registered floorspace increased 70 per cent. Further, 16 jurisdictions now partner in the program, which has expanded into the interior of BC, including the City of Kamloops and the City of Kelowna.

"Governments are dropping not-so-subtle hints that new standards of practice are coming, and the growing interest in this program demonstrates that industry is taking note," said Donovan Woollard, the Managing Director of the OPEN Green Building Society, which manages the program on behalf of its municipal partners. "By joining Building Benchmark BC, property owners and policy makers can capture insights on how to direct resources towards the best interventions, in the right buildings, to achieve the highest climate benefit."

The *Building Benchmark BC Year Two Annual Report* includes a timeline that captures all announced and anticipated climate change targets and regulatory requirements and deadlines in the province.

"Building Benchmark BC is a great way for people to understand their building's performance," said Damian Stathonikos, President of BOMA BC, which represents the interests of the province's commercial building owners and managers. "It is a low-stakes way of getting started, doesn't require a huge investment, and can really pay dividends," added Stathonikos.

To download the *Building Benchmark BC Year Two Annual Report* and explore the graphical outputs of the Building Benchmark BC data set, see buildingbenchmarkbc.ca.

About: Building Benchmark BC is a pilot initiative of local governments convened by the OPEN Green Building Society, made possible with support from Natural Resources Canada, Real Estate Foundation of BC, Metro Vancouver, BC Hydro, and the Province of British Columbia.

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Backgrounder 1: About and Highlights

What is Building Benchmark BC?

- Building Benchmark BC is a local- and regional-government-led initiative working to inform and inspire public and private sector leadership on built-environment climate change solutions.

What is Building Performance Benchmarking?

- Building performance benchmarking is the process of collecting and monitoring energy and greenhouse gas emissions data from a large number of buildings over time. This allows owners, managers, occupants, and jurisdictions to compare the performance of similar participating properties. With this data in hand, property owners, policy makers, incentive designers, and capital providers can funnel resources towards the best interventions, in the right buildings, to achieve the highest climate benefit.

What is new in this year's Annual Report?

- Collectively, registered properties to date represent 8.5 million square metres of conditioned floor space across 1,163 buildings.
- This is the equivalent space occupied by 1,042 regulation Canadian Football League fields.
- There are now 54 participants in the program.
- Building Benchmark BC is now tracking 30 building typologies—including offices, apartments, libraries, and recreation centres, to name but a few.
- The dataset includes 190 office buildings, the largest category, and 162 apartment buildings.
- As of the end of the program's second year, the following 16 jurisdictions were official partners and collecting building performance data via Building Benchmark BC:

Capital Regional District	City of North Vancouver	District of Saanich
City of Abbotsford	City of Richmond	Township of Langley
City of Burnaby	City of Surrey	University of British Columbia
City of Kamloops	City of Vancouver	Metro Vancouver
City of Kelowna	City of Victoria	
City of New Westminster	District of North Vancouver	

- Building Benchmark BC is now welcoming new property owners and managers—as well as jurisdictions—to join for our 2022 reporting cycle. To join, visit buildingbenchmarkbc.ca.



Backgrounder 2: Perspectives from Participants

Observations and insights from partners, participants, and jurisdictions:

“The District of Saanich is proud to have been working with Building Benchmark BC since its inception in 2020. Through the program and the tools it provides, we are able to evaluate and compare the energy and GHG emissions of our own facilities and encourage building owners and managers in our community to do the same. Having this baseline information is critical to achieving our climate targets, and we look forward to seeing more buildings in Saanich participate in the years ahead.”

—**Mayor Fred Haynes, District of Saanich**

“The City of Kamloops adopted a Community Climate Action Plan in 2021. Like many local governments, we are striving to show leadership by reducing emissions from municipal buildings and fleets. Benchmarking is one tool that can help us to identify specific buildings that are producing more GHG emissions than comparable sites and therefore prioritize further assessments of decarbonization opportunities.”

—**Josephine Howitt, Sustainability Program Coordinator, City of Kamloops**

“We’re honoured to receive this award from Building Benchmark BC that recognizes our contribution to reducing carbon pollution and improving the energy efficiency of our buildings. These initiatives help us work towards achieving the targets in our Community Energy and Emissions Plan, which is a key component of our urgent response to the climate emergency. This is important work that helps us make energy use and greenhouse gas emissions visible.”

—**Mayor Mike Little, District of North Vancouver**



Backgrounder 3: Building Benchmark BC Awards Winners

The inaugural Building Benchmark BC Awards recognize excellence in improving building climate and energy performance across a range of categories. Congratulations to all the winners!

Highest Participation

Jurisdiction: **The District of North Vancouver**

Highest number of participating buildings per capita.

Public Sector Organization: **UBC Point Grey Campus**

Highest number of participating buildings for a public sector organization.

Private Organization: **Colliers International**

Highest number of participating buildings for a private organization.

Greatest Diversity of Property Types

City of Richmond

Greatest diversity of property types submitted.

Highest Data Quality

For six to 10 submissions: **City of North Vancouver (tie)**

For six to 10 submissions: **Victoria Cool Aid Society (tie)**

For eleven to 30 submissions: **District of Saanich**

For more than 31 submissions: **Vancouver Island Health Authority**

Earliest Data Submissions

Jurisdiction: **City of Vancouver**

Private Organization: **Golden Properties Ltd.**

Public Sector Organization: **Surrey Schools**

Greatest Emissions Reduction

Greatest Emissions Reduction, Private Organization: **Golden Properties Ltd.**

Greatest reduction in greenhouse gas intensity (GHGi) for an office building.

Public Disclosure¹

Jurisdiction: **City of New Westminster**

Jurisdiction disclosing the greatest number of buildings per capita in Year 1, using 2019 data.

Public Sector Organization: **UBC Point Grey Campus**

Public sector organization disclosing the greatest number of buildings in Year 1, 2019 data.

Private Organization: **QuadReal Property Group**

Private organization disclosing the greatest number of buildings in Year 1, 2019 data.

¹ Though Building Benchmark BC only requires participants to report performance data, we encourage them to disclose the information publicly, as well. This award recognizes leadership in doing so in the first year of the program, as we prepare to receive this information for Year Two.