



Nova Scotia Set to Unlock the Power of Building Energy Benchmarking with GRID

Efficiency Nova Scotia will use the innovative software to fine-tune the performance of its existing incentive programs while developing new offerings for building owners and managers.

May 10, 2021 — Nova Scotia 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 British Columbia based software developer of building energy-efficiency solutions, recently licensed its **GRID** benchmark and disclosure software to EfficiencyOne—the non-profit organization operating in Nova Scotia as **Efficiency Nova Scotia**. A national leader in energy efficiency program innovation, they deliver electricity efficiency and conservation programs in Nova Scotia.

“The benchmarking pilot encourages building owners and managers to learn more about the energy performance of their buildings, allowing customers to make more informed decisions – like which buildings would benefit most from energy efficiency and optimization projects.” says Janet Tobin, a spokesperson for Efficiency Nova Scotia. “Adding the GRID software to our toolkit is one more way we can help ensure our incentive programs are reaching the right buildings, in the right locations, and helping customers realize the biggest benefits.”

Efficiency Nova Scotia's benchmarking pilot will use GRID to invite building owners and managers to voluntarily submit energy usage data, and learn how their properties rank on energy and emissions relative to similar building types elsewhere in the province. GRID's powerful data-visualization capability will ultimately allow those owners to make more informed equipment upgrade investments.

“We've just completed a successful first year of using GRID in a pilot benchmarking program here in BC, and we are excited to bring the same success to Nova Scotia through EfficiencyOne,” said Donovan Woollard, the CEO of OPEN Technologies.

With EfficiencyOne, Nova Scotia joins 12 BC municipalities, the City of Calgary, and the Canada Green Building Council—all of which are using GRID to manage their building benchmarking programs.



“Nova Scotia is taking bold action on climate change. As part of our commitment to the environment and fighting climate change, our province is making investments in energy-efficiency projects, like OPEN Technologies’ innovative software. We know that in other jurisdictions, building energy benchmarking has been shown to reduce building energy and greenhouse gas reductions by as much as 8 per cent. We are pleased to provide EfficiencyOne with support to bring this powerful tool to Nova Scotia,” said the Hon. Chuck Porter, Minister of Energy and Mines for the Province of Nova Scotia.

In 2019, Natural Resources Canada funded OPEN Technologies to develop GRID as a tool that jurisdictions can use to run rigorous and consistent benchmarking programs. 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 Nova Scotia to aggregate performance data from thousands of ENERGY STAR™Portfolio Manager accounts, GRID serves to advance energy and emissions reporting and disclosure across Canada.

The Nova Scotia Energy Benchmarking Pilot was developed in partnership with NRCan, the Province of Nova Scotia and the Canada Green Building Council. The pilot focuses on commercial and institutional buildings (including multi-unit residential buildings) and provides valuable information to building owners helping to identify potential areas for improvement, optimization, and savings.

You can learn more about the Benchmarking pilot here:

www.energycyns.ca/business/business-types/benchmarking-pilot

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

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