



# B3 Benchmarking

You can't Manage what you don't Measure

## Why Benchmark?

Benchmarking is useful when your city, county, school district, or other entity would like to:



Find the "lowest hanging fruit" efficiency projects.



Demonstrate to others the value of your energy efficiency projects.



Participate in various financing projects.



Complete an action in the GreenStep Cities program.

### B3 Benchmark



This site is using significantly less energy than the B3 Benchmark.

### B3 Peer Rating

92

This site is ranked in the 92nd percentile amongst 73 similar sites.

The B3 Database is a free accounting software program for public entities to manage energy use. You enter in building information, monthly meter readings, and other basic energy use data into the database. The results are easy to read energy consumption summaries.

## Energy Consumption Summaries

- **Summary Tab**— high level organizational information and completeness.
- **Benchmarking Tab**— uses the engineering model of your building to show the Benchmark Index Ratio. The Benchmark Index Ratio shows which buildings could see the largest energy savings.
- **Peer Comparison Tab**— allows you to see how your sites compare to other sites within the B3 Benchmarking database.
- **Energy Star Tab**— allows you to compare whether your buildings are consuming more or less energy than a similar buildings nationwide by obtaining an Energy Star rating for eligible sites.
- **Baseline Tab**— allows you to compare how your buildings are doing on a year to year basis.



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## Energy Consumption Summaries

- **Improvements Tab**— allows you to set targets, both relative and absolute, for organizations and sites.
- **Reports Tab**— allows you to visualize the energy performance of an organization or site for multiple time frames for all fuel sources: in dollars, carbon dioxide emissions, native units, or kBtuns.
- **Water Mode Overview**— allows you view and manage your water consumption at an individual site or organization.
  - *Summary Tab*
  - *Baseline Tab*
  - *Reports Tab*

Sites that use more energy than the benchmark are good candidates for an energy audit.



<https://mn.b3benchmarking.com/>



## Pilot Project—B3 Data Entry

The Westbrook-Walnut Grove Youth Energy Summit (YES!) Team entered building and utility data into the B3 Energy Benchmarking System for ten buildings in the City of Westbrook to learn about energy use, as well as help the city better track energy use and utility costs in public buildings.

The YES! Team is a group of nine motivated students that are interested in creating community environmental and economic vitality through hands on projects, so B3 Energy Benchmark data entry was the perfect project.

The project was completed through a partnership between the Southwest Regional Development Commission, the Westbrook-Walnut Grove Public Schools, and the City of Westbrook-Walnut Grove.

The whole project took 4 class periods and 10 hours of time to teach the students how to enter in 12 months of public building utility data. The City Clerk spent 3 hours compiling the information, and the students spent 7 hours on data entry.

<http://www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org/blog/students-westbrook-walnut-grove-public-schools-benchmark-city-buildings-b3-energy-benchmarking>