

Clean Buildings Performance Standard and Owner Provided Energy Meters

Introduction

The [Clean Buildings Performance Standard](#) (Standard) is mandatory for all Tier 1 covered buildings located in the state of Washington. A Tier 1 covered building is a building where the sum of nonresidential, hotel, motel and dormitory floor areas exceeds 50,000 square feet, excluding the parking garage area.

Benchmarking is an important step in the process of defining which performance metric to pursue in complying with the Standard. Benchmarking involves measuring the building's energy use intensity (EUI) using a minimum of 12 consecutive months of net energy consumption. Buildings capable of measuring EUI in accordance with Section 5.2 may pursue compliance by meeting the energy use intensity targets (EUI_t) created in accordance with Section 7 of the standard.

There are situations in which submetering is needed to measure the EUI of a building. Buildings unable to measure net energy consumption in accordance with section 5.2 shall pursue compliance with the standard through the investment criteria performance metric.

This document is designed to inform building owners and their authorized representatives of the Clean Building Performance Standard requirements for owner provided energy meters.

Definition and benefits

Submetering is a method of monitoring a building's energy consumption below the level necessary for utility billing. It can provide individual insight on all energy types used such as electrical, natural gas, steam and water. Submeters can capture data for individual buildings on a campus to individual building systems. It can also provide real time data around the clock, when the building is fully occupied or unoccupied.

Submetering by itself does not reduce energy use, cost or greenhouse gas emissions; however, when strategically placed to monitor energy consumption, it can provide insightful energy efficiency strategies.

Additional benefits of submetering include:

- building operation improvements;
- verify the return of investments on energy efficiency projects and investments;
- identify energy improvements and savings;
- create energy budgets and reports; and
- perform measurement and verification for projects.

When to submeter

Submetering is not required for the Clean Buildings Performance Standard. However, if the desired performance metric is to meet the EUI and the existing metering configuration does not support energy consumption on an individual building level, submetering can be employed to generate the EUI.

Submetering can also be used on spaces in the building that do not have an EUI, such as data centers. The Standard has allowances for spaces with building activities that do not have an EUI to deduct energy use and gross floor area from the building's EUI when such spaces are submetered (Exceptions 3 & 4 of Section 7.2.3).

Submetering Guidance

Section 5.2 Building Energy Monitoring requires that energy-use data for each type of energy imported into and exported from the building be collected from utility or energy delivery bills or by monitoring local energy meters. Owner-provided energy meters shall meet the metering accuracy, tolerances and testing requirements of [Title 480 WAC](#).

In lieu of Title 480 WAC, Commerce will also accept owner provide energy meters that meet the standards of [WAC 51-11C-40904 Section C409.4- Measurement devices, data acquisition system and energy display \(Section 409.4 of the Washington State Energy Code \(WSEC\)\)](#).

For additional guidance or questions on submetering for the Clean Buildings Performance Standards, please contact buildings@commerce.wa.gov.