



Office of the City Manager

October 24, 2013

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Christine Daniel, City Manager *CD*
Subject: Energy Smart Awards for Benchmarking Energy Use in Commercial Buildings

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide information on the Second Annual Energy Smart Awards Program. Information about Energy Smart Awards for buildings that benchmark energy use with EPA's Energy Star Portfolio Manager is available on the City of Berkeley's website at: www.cityofberkeley.info/benchmarking_buildings/ and postcards are available for distribution.

In 2012, East Bay Environmental Network (EBEN) celebrated twenty-three (23) award recipients of Berkeley's Energy Smart Awards at a reception at the Zaentz Media Center. We are pleased to announce this year that along with Berkeley, the cities of Oakland and Emeryville will be providing recognition awards to buildings in their respective jurisdictions. A larger, regional awards celebration, co-hosted by EBEN along with the Building Owners and Managers Association of the East Bay (BOMA East Bay), is scheduled for January 30th, 2014. Originally scheduled for November 22, 2013, the event was postponed due to delays caused by the inability to access the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) website during the federal government shutdown. The East Bay Energy Smart Awards Celebration is intended to be an annual event as a venue for each participating cities to reward and encourage leadership in building energy efficiency.

The Berkeley Energy Smart Awards provide public recognition to building owners and managers that use the US EPA's Energy Star Portfolio Manager free software tool to track their energy use and an opportunity to recognize exemplary actions. The 2014 award consists of a City of Berkeley Energy Smart certificate and window decal for all buildings that register with Energy Star Portfolio Manager and report the performance score to the City. High performing buildings receive additional recognition for Energy Excellence. This year recipients will also receive a customized report on energy saving opportunities, due to resources provided by a grant from the California Energy Commission.

Outreach is being conducted to the following types of buildings:

- Office buildings
- Schools
- Grocery Stores
- Hotels
- Multifamily

Buildings that register with Energy Star Portfolio Manager get a building performance rating on a 1-100 scale. The performance score helps building owners, managers, facility staff and tenants better understand and prioritize energy improvements and encourages action that leverage incentives to improve energy efficiency performance. Benchmarking is an important first step in reducing energy consumption. Studies by the US EPA found significant energy savings achieved in buildings benchmarking their energy use, finding an average of 2.4% per year over a seven-year period. Additional benefits of this award program include:

- Celebrating exemplary building owners and managers;
- Raising building manager, occupant and public awareness of building energy performance;
- Establishing benchmarking as standard practice for building energy management;
- Encouraging early compliance with AB 1103 (Non-Residential Building Energy Use Disclosure) that will require disclosing benchmark information to buyers, lessees and lenders at time of transaction;
- Creating positive opportunities to engage commercial building stakeholders regarding climate action; and
- Identifying effective efficiency best practices and energy savings potential.

Twenty-six (26) entities participated last year and were recognized for their dedication to energy efficiency and environmental stewardship.

Energy Smart Award is a program provided through the Office of Energy and Sustainable Development. For more information, contact Billi Romain, Sustainability Coordinator via telephone at ext. 7432 or email at bromain@cityofberkeley.info.

Attachments: Energy Benchmarking Postcard and Application

cc: William Rogers, Deputy City Manager
Eric Angstadt, Director of Planning
Mark Numainville, City Clerk
Ann-Marie Hogan, City Auditor
Matthai Chakko, Assistant to the City Manager