

IEA Consultant

April 2010

B3 Energy Benchmarking

Minnesota has been very proactive in reducing building energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions. The state has passed legislation mandating energy benchmarking of all public buildings and set minimum energy efficiency criteria for all building projects funded with Minnesota bond funds.

Minnesota has taken steps to comply with the national sustainability initiative known as the 2030 challenge. The goal of the 2030 campaign is to improve the energy efficiency of all new buildings with the ultimate goal of having all new buildings carbon-neutral by the year 2030 (using no fossil fuel greenhouse gas emitting energy to operate). Minnesota's 2030 legislation mandates specific building energy efficiency requirements from 2010 to 2015. These requirements will become more stringent every five years until 2030. Beginning on July 1, 2010, all Minnesota State-bonded projects — new and substantially renovated—must comply with this new standard of energy efficiency. For example, a new elementary school will be required to use less than 57.1 kBtu per square foot per year of energy under the new guidelines. In addition to improving the energy efficiency of new buildings, steps are being taken to evaluate and improve energy consumption in existing buildings.

"The goal...is to improve the energy efficiency of all new buildings..."

In 2001, Minnesota passed legislation requiring all public buildings to be benchmarked for energy usage through the B3 program operated by the Department of Administration. Since that time, more than 5,100 public buildings in Minnesota have been benchmarked. The State of Minnesota uses B3 data to help prioritize buildings most in need of financial assistance. For example, part of the project qualification process of the Public Building Enhanced Energy Efficiency Program (PBEEP) requires that a building's B3 energy benchmark be up to date. The B3 benchmarking system also allows building owners to determine their carbon footprint using nationally recognized standards. In addition, energy usage normalized for weather can be compared from year to year. Regular updating of the B3 data with current energy bill information is an important part of maintaining an accurate benchmark.

Save money... lessen your impact on the environment.

Improving the energy efficiency of your building is the most effective method of lowering its carbon footprint. Following Minnesota's sustainability guidelines will help you to save money and lessen your impact on the environment.

For more information on B3 Energy Benchmarking, please contact Steve Zechmeister at stevez@ieainstitute.com or call us at 763.315.7900.

Important Dates!

April 18-24

Playground Safety Week
National Program for
Playground Safety
800-554-7529
[www.playgroundsafety.org/
safetyweek/](http://www.playgroundsafety.org/safetyweek/)

April 19-23

**Severe Weather Awareness
Week**
Minnesota Department of
Public Safety, Division of
Emergency Management
651-201-7424
www.severeweather.state.mn.us/

April 24-May 1

Safe Kids Week
Safe Kids Worldwide
202-662-0614
www.safekids.org
Safe Kids Minnesota
800-444-9150
[www.minnesotasafetycouncil.org/
safekids](http://www.minnesotasafetycouncil.org/safekids)



Please contact us at 800.233.9513 or visit our recently updated website at www.ieainstitute.com.

IEA is an environmental, health, and safety consulting organization with experience in industrial, educational, and healthcare facilities. The information presented above is developed in accordance with generally accepted environmental, health, and safety practices.