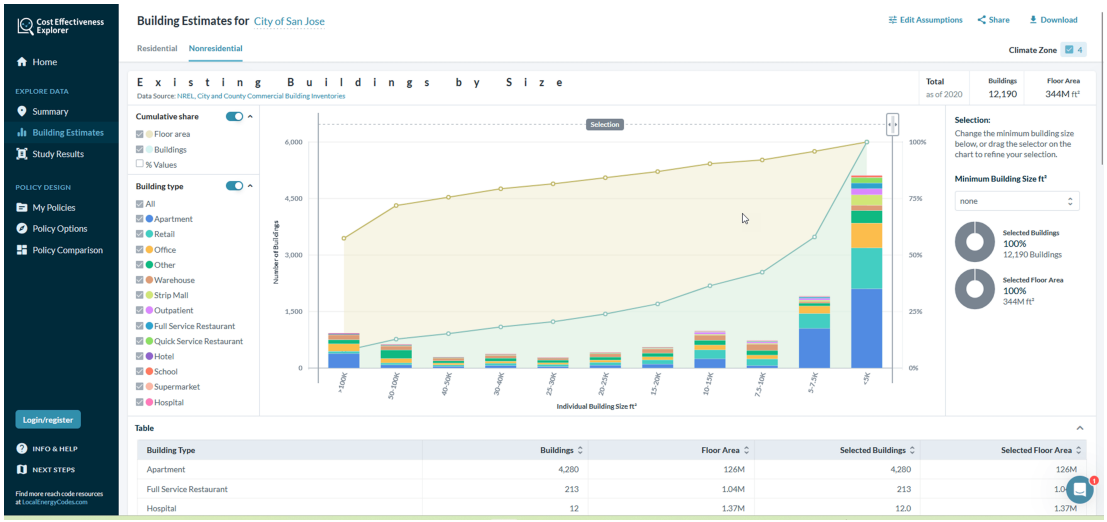
REACH CODE NEWS BRIEF: JANUARY 2025

TOOLS AND INITIATIVES FOR BENCHMARKING AND BPS



COST-EFFECTIVENESS EXPLORER OFFERS NEW INSIGHTS FOR BENCHMARKING AND BUILDING PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

The Cost-Effectiveness Explorer team has introduced new capabilities engineered to assist local jurisdictions in understanding their existing nonresidential building stock. This can be helpful in identifying the most impactful policies for consideration, and especially useful in assessing potential benchmarking and BPS policies.

The tool provides visibility for nonresidential and apartment buildings, with filters for focusing on specific building types such as offices, warehouses, restaurants, hotels, schools and more.

Policymakers in the early stages of considering benchmarking or building performance standards often face challenges when setting the minimum building size and covered building types. Which approaches will reduce the implementation challenges of the policy while still covering a sizable share of the square footage? This feature in the Explorer enables jurisdiction staff to study the existing building stock by building type, size and floor space so they can quickly pinpoint where the greatest impact can occur. Users can choose from an interactive graph or a drop-down selector tool to refine their views. Tables below the interactive tools offer more detailed data about specific building types. Users can share different outcomes with colleagues or Council members via screenshot.

The building data is directly derived from City and County Commercial Building Inventories estimated by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory[1] whose estimates were produced using CoStar and Commercial Building Energy Consumption Survey data.[2]

Analysis is available for any local jurisdiction across the state. Energy and emissions data is expected to become available in subsequent versions of the tool.

Technical support is readily available through the messaging icon in the lower right corner of the tool, with individual walk-throughs available by appointment.

Try out the Cost Effectiveness Explorer today! For more information, email contact@policystudio.co.

[1] U.S. Department of Energy's Open Energy Data Initiative (OEDI)

[2] CoStar and Commercial Building Energy Consumption Survey



CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION CONTINUES DEVELOPMENT OF CALIFORNIA BUILDING PERFORMANCE STRATEGY REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

While the California Energy Commission’s work continues toward developing the statewide Building Performance Strategy Report and Recommendations mandated by Senate Bill 48 (SB 48), the Commission seeks participation in the stakeholder analysis and engagement process with numerous opportunities available throughout the coming year.

SB 48, the Building Energy Savings Act, was signed into law on October 7, 2023.[1] This legislation directs the Energy Commission to develop a strategy to improve energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in commercial buildings of over 50,000 square feet, and multifamily residential buildings with more than 50,000 square feet and 17 or more utility accounts, utilizing data collected under California's existing building energy benchmarking law.[2] While existing commercial buildings with more than 50,000 square feet only make up 6% of all commercial buildings, they account for 53% of total commercial building energy use.[3]

During the development process, the Commission must consider input from affected stakeholders, including:

- Members of under-resourced communities and community-based organizations representing tenant advocacy, equity, and environmental justice concerns of under-resourced communities
- Representatives of local city or county government
- Owners or operators of affordable housing
- Groups representing low-income residential and small commercial tenants, including organizations that provide legal services to those tenants
- Providers of energy efficiency, renewable energy, and building decarbonization equipment and services
- Labor unions that represent workers who implement building upgrades related to, or who manage or service, the energy infrastructure of covered buildings
- Technical building design professionals
- Facility operations professionals
- Multiunit residential and nonresidential building owners
- Energy utilities

Interested stakeholders are invited to participate through public workshops, the public comment process, continued comments on the published RFI and more. To receive email updates, please subscribe to the Commission's Building Performance Standards subscription list. Through this list, stakeholders will receive updates, information, and event announcements related to the Building Performance Strategy Report and Recommendations proceeding. For process or administrative questions, or if your organization would like to explore additional ways to engage, please email the team at BPS@energy.ca.gov.

For more information about this proceeding, visit the Commission's dedicated webpage.

[1] Public Resources Code section 25402.16

[2] Public Resources Code section 25402.10

[3] Release: State Legislature passes Building Energy Savings Act

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UPCOMING EVENTS

February 6: BayREN training: Navigating the Energy Code

February 12: California Energy Commission Business Meeting

February 12: 3C-REN: 2025 Energy Code Update for the Building Industry

February 13: I-REN C&S Training: How the Energy Code Treats Electrification

February 20: Sustain SoCal: Sustainable Communities: Solutions in Resiliency. UC-Irvine Beall Applied Innovation.

February 26: BayREN and Energy Code Ace webinar: Single-family Standards: Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs)



NEW THIS MONTH!



2025 ENERGY CODE RESOURCES NOW AVAILABLE!

The reach codes program is updating the residential fact sheet with a comprehensive overview of the new 2022 CALGreen requirements for EV charging for all new construction.

New resources providing insight into the 2025 Energy Code are becoming available. The following list, while not comprehensive, highlights resources and trainings focusing on the newly adopted standards.

California Energy Commission

While the final version of the adopted 2025 Building Energy Efficiency Standards is not yet published, markup versions of the Code are available on the Commission website. Draft versions of the 2025 Single-Family Residential Alternative Calculation Method Reference Manual and 2025 Nonresidential and Multifamily Alternative Calculation Method Reference Manual are also available.

The Commission also maintains an ongoing Energy Standards Outreach and Education Schedule providing information on upcoming activities.

Energy Code Ace

Energy Code Ace has published its popular "What's New" and "What's Changed" Fact Sheets:

- Fact Sheet: Nonresidential Buildings: What’s Changed in 2025
- Fact Sheet: Single-family Buildings: What’s New in 2025
- Fact Sheet: Multifamily Buildings: What’s Changed in 2025
- Fact Sheet: Single-family Buildings: What’s Changed in 2025

In addition to these Fact Sheets, Energy Code Ace also provides 2025 Title 24, Part 6 Essentials training webinars. The program offers individual half-day trainings devoted to What's New in Nonresidential Standards and What's New in Residential Standards. Visit Energy Code Ace's training schedule for complete details.

Regional Energy Networks (RENs)

The REN organizations across the state offer Codes and Standards training throughout the year. Upcoming highlights include:

- BayREN training: Navigating the Energy Code February 6, 2025
- 3C-REN: 2025 Energy Code Update for the Building Industry on February 12, 2025
- I-REN training: How the Energy Code Treats Electrification on February 13, 2025

Other Resources

Numerous other organizations sponsor or conduct codes and standards training. These include:

- American Institute of Architects (AIA) local chapters: AIA San Fernando Valley hosts a 2025 Code Overview on February 19, 2025
- International Code Council local chapters: Central Coast International Code Council chapter hosts a 2025 Code Overview on March 6, 2025.
- Association of Building Officials local chapters: Sacramento Valley Association of Building Officials Chapter hosts a 2025 Code Overview in May 2025.



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OTHER REACH CODE NEWS BRIEFS

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