DENVER
CLIMATE ACTION, SUSTAINABILITY & RESILIENCY

What Energize Denver is.

Energize Denver is a building performance policy that plays a pivotal role in reaching the city's goal of eliminating emissions by 2040.

Through the reduction of energy use in Denver's largest buildings, improvements made now will deliver long-term cost savings and a stronger, more resilient economy over time, while cutting pollution significantly in the city we love and call home.

Energize Denver covers two building sizes:

- 5,000 to 24,999 square feet (8,000 bldgs)
- 25,000 square feet and larger (3,000 bldgs)

Smaller buildings comply through upgrading their lighting to LED or covering 20% of their energy use through renewables (other options to reduce energy use are available).

Larger buildings comply once an energy efficiency target is set for each building based off of benchmarking data reported from the building since 2017. Next, the building works toward enhancing energy efficiency through operations and equipment improvements.

For larger buildings to achieve compliance, they either:

- Show they are meeting that target through their benchmarking reports
- Develop and submit a plan for how they will meet their target over time.

What Energize Denver is not.

Buildings are not required to electrify in order to be in compliance.

Buildings are not required to replace HVAC systems before their end of system life.

Buildings are not required to reduce their energy use by 30%. Each building's target is unique.

What's New with Energize Denver

Upgrading a building's performance and reducing its energy use to meet Energize Denver targets takes time, planning, and funding. The city wants to support your efforts.

Every building is different, and compliance cannot be one-size-fits-all. The city's goal is to work alongside Denver's building owners, property managers, and service providers to make reducing energy use practical, more affordable, and better aligned with each unique building. Increased options are available to buildings to help put compliance within reach – from adjusting energy efficiency targets and compliance deadlines to developing customized plans for phased upgrades.

Complying with Energize Denver should be a practical, achievable process.

Through improvements to the policy, building now have more time to plan, budget and make improvements to successfully reach their energy-use targets without incurring penalties.

- **Extended Timelines:** Compliance deadlines are now extended to 2028 and 2032, with opportunities to apply for compliance holds or extensions beyond 2032. This gives buildings more time to plan, budget, and implement energy reduction measures and efficiency improvements.
- **Lower Penalties:** The focus of this program is on energy efficiency, not penalties—performance penalties have been cut in half, none have been issued to date, and none will be assessed until 2029 and only issued as a last resort.
- **Expanded Financial Support:** New rebates make energy audits more affordable and enhance building management training while we have improved navigation of additional financial relief opportunities.
- **Clearer Compliance Steps:** Improved guidance and communication ensure buildings and service providers have the support they need to meet compliance requirements.
- **More Resources & Collaboration:** Additional tools and transparent compliance guidance will help buildings successfully implement improvements and achieve their energy reduction targets.

TIME

Providing more time for buildings to plan, budget and implement energy efficiency improvements to meet the buildings' target. **The interim and final Energize Denver compliance deadlines are extended to 2028 and 2032.**

Extensions & Holds -- Buildings have the ability to apply for compliance holds or timeline extensions beyond 2032 to address the following reasons:

- **Space and Water Heating & Cooling Equipment:** Building owners can receive extensions to wait until end of system life to replace their equipment.
- **Other Reasons:** Buildings may qualify for an extension or hold on their compliance timeline for multiple reasons including leasing challenges, increased tenant vacancies, financial difficulties, HOA fundraising needs, the timing of major renovations, energy service capacity limitations, long-term steam loop infrastructure planning and other factors.

PLANNING

Streamlining processes and increasing compliance options so buildings are provided more flexibility to meet their energy efficiency targets.

If buildings need more assistance, the Energize Denver Business Hub is set up to help create a smart, cost-effective compliance plan for their buildings. Services include:

- **Strategic Planning:** Providing a streamlined business hub with dedicated staff and a new compliance portal.
- **Training Contractors:** Connecting buildings with qualified service providers who understand Denver's policy and providing incentives for energy audits – though not mandatory – that can identify savings and compliance options.
- **Streamlining Processes:** Making informed decisions with transparent compliance and ongoing support.

BUDGETING

Providing incentives and identifying additional rebate and grant options for buildings to access cost relief and encourage thoughtful planning.

- **Increasing Rebates:** The city is offering new rebate programs to offset costs of energy efficiency management training for building staff and energy audits of buildings to identify cost-effective improvements for compliance.
- **Financial Assistance:** A variety of financial support mechanisms are available through partners, including low-interest loans, grants, and other funding resources to aid buildings in improvements.
- **Practical Energy Target Change:** No building is required to reduce its energy usage by more than 42%, ensuring realistic and achievable targets.

Want more information about the policy? Visit www.denvergov.org/energizedenver,
or contact our Energize Denver Help Desk at energizedenver@denvergov.org or (844)-536-4528.