

Friends of Benchmarking's First Year White Paper Receives Press Recognition

NEW YORK, NY-September 10, 2012 – The Friends of Benchmarking, led by Jack S. Nyman, Executive Director, The Steven L. Newman Real Estate Institute and Nancy E. Anderson, Executive Director, The Sallan Foundation, has a mission to discuss and define the public usefulness of the benchmark data and New York City's mandatory Annual Benchmarking Report. The recommendations of the FOB were developed into a white paper and provided to the Mayor's Office of Long Term Planning and Sustainability. FOB participants are engaged in NYC's energy efficiency campaign and are in a strategic position to provide recommendations about this program.

Since the Benchmarking Law relies on the value of data disclosure and public access to information, accountability and accuracy are important to the success of the Benchmarking Law. However, the legal requirements to gather and report on building energy use data are seen as cumbersome and costly by some property owners and industry groups. Since the group's origination, FOB members have questioned what can add significant value and increase public demand for a forward thinking and analytic annual report while easing the task of compliance.

Many find the Portfolio Manager Reporting Software to be awkward and difficult to learn. It does not require reporting on important metrics like load shape, although Energy Use Intensity (EUI) data has meaning even without load shape information. The current Portfolio Manager score should be seen as a useful starting point for making user-friendly building-to-building comparisons. While demand-response program participants receive interval electric meters, in campus-type facilities and individual buildings may not be separately metered. This adds to the reporting challenge. In addition, in direct-metered buildings, the Aggregation Report from Con Edison was somewhat difficult to use for many.

In August 2012, roughly one year from its inception, the FOB released its First Year White Paper. To date, three media sources have released articles about the first annual white paper. These include the following:

- A Columbia Law blog was written by Friends of Benchmarking participant Cullen Howe. See: <http://blogs.law.columbia.edu/greenbuildinglaw/2012/08/30/white-paper-released-recommending-improvements-for-new-york-citys-benchmarking-law/>
- The New York World did a feature piece. Go to: <http://www.thenewyorkworld.com/2012/08/31/greener-greater-buildings-tally-a-rough-pioneer-experience/>
- The NY League of Conservation Voters featured the report in their August 31 on-line newsletter. Visit: <http://nylcv.org/ecopoliticsdaily/>

To access the full report, go to: http://www.sallan.org/pdf-docs/FOB_year1whitepaper_082712.pdf

The FOB and their activities are endorsed and generously supported by the following:

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