



Energy Audit of Government Buildings

Complete an energy audit of all local government-owned buildings

WHAT IS IT?

An energy audit is a system-wide analysis of energy use in a facility. A consultant will evaluate each building element, including but not limited to, lighting, HVAC, windows and doors, insulation, etc. For energy efficiency projects, an energy audit is often the first step, conducted to identify areas for improvement and energy leaks.

The American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE) estimates that energy retrofits informed by energy audits can result in 5-30% reductions in a building's energy use. Considering that buildings can account for 50-75% of a city's emissions, energy efficiency can make a significant impact on carbon emission mitigation efforts.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

- Energy use in municipal buildings often accounts for a significant share of a city's annual expenses and municipal carbon emissions.
- Energy audits identify the largest energy users in municipal facilities. By understanding where energy is lost and which facilities use the most energy, cities can make informed decisions to reduce energy use.

BENEFITS



Prioritize their energy efficiency upgrades to target the largest energy users



Demonstrate leadership in greenhouse gas mitigation solutions



Reduce annual operating costs for municipal facilities

HOW CAN COMMUNITIES IMPLEMENT THIS POLICY?

Cities can conduct energy audits of their municipal facilities to create strategies for energy-efficient upgrades to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and annual costs.

- **Choose a method to complete the energy audits.** Cities can choose to hire an energy auditor from private businesses, utilities, or public agencies to conduct an energy audit on their municipal buildings.
- **Utilize findings to prioritize the most impactful energy-efficiency upgrades.** Through this data-driven approach, cities can analyze the largest sources of energy waste where upgrades would result in the highest cost savings.
- **Require benchmarks for improvements and periodic energy audits.** Based on the initial energy audits, the city can set minimum benchmarks that each energy upgrade project must achieve to guarantee power and cost savings. In addition, cities can create internal protocols that require periodic energy audits. By doing so, cities can benchmark the effectiveness of their energy-efficiency programs over time and can apply the most successful strategies to future projects.