
Program Overview

In April 2014, Council endorsed the development and implementation of a “Building Energy Challenge”, a friendly competition to reduce energy use in commercial, institutional and multifamily properties. The Challenge is part of the broader EnergySave Richmond suite of programs, which support the implementation of the 2014 Community Energy and Emissions Plan and are intended to help pursue greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets in the Official Community Plan.

Over the course of 2015, the City of Richmond hosted the first year of its Building Energy Challenge (BEC). As part of the program, participants are asked to track their energy performance and commit to pursuing strategies to reduce costs and benefit the environment. The Challenge provided the participants with:

- Energy coaching, whereby an energy management expert helps participants track and benchmark their energy use, and identify energy management opportunities.
- Subsidized training opportunities for buildings’ operations staff.
- Access to and education about BC Hydro and Fortis BC energy rebate programs.
- Instruction and encouragement to benchmark buildings’ energy performance.
- Networking and peer learning opportunities.

Participants and Partnership

Forty organizations representing 124 buildings registered in the Challenge. They included a variety of types of participants, including offices, warehouses, hotels, casinos, educational institutions, multifamily property managers, and other organizations.

Results:

- 5,596,804 square feet of property were benchmarked in Portfolio Manager.
- 75 buildings across 12 organizations were represented.
- 10 out these 12 organizations were deemed to be benchmarked because of their participation in the Building Energy Challenge.
- Site energy use decreased 12% over the last baseline year.
- GHG emissions decreased 16%.
- Electricity consumption reduced by 7%.