

The Ordinance Drafting Process

Evanston has a longstanding history of climate action. In March, 2015 members of the Utilities Commission received permission from the Administration and Public Works (AP&W) Committee of the City Council to pursue the development of a benchmarking ordinance. Benchmarking ordinances seek to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from existing buildings which aligns with Evanston's commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from all sectors.

Ordinance Development Timeline

March 16, 2015 – The Utilities Commission first presented about [Building Energy Efficiency Benchmarking Presentation](#) to the AP&W.

June 2015 – The Evanston Utilities Commission convened community stakeholders to explore the potential of developing an energy and water benchmarking ordinance for larger buildings in Evanston. Roughly 15 individuals agreed to join an intensive working group.

July 2015 through March, 2016 – The working group met 6 times during this period to conduct research and develop information to be included in a draft ordinance.

March 2016 – The working group concluded its work and an ordinance was drafted by City staff using findings from the working group.

June 21 – July 15 – A period of public comment was open where community members could learn about and comment on the ordinance.

July 2016 – The ordinance was brought for introduction to (A&PW) and held (no action taken) due to questions from the Aldermen.

August 2016 - Staff responded to questions raised in the August 15 meeting during the discussion portion of the A&PW meeting (no action taken).

September 2016 – At the Monday, September 12 A&PW moved to introduce the draft ordinance to the full City Council meeting. On Monday, September 26 the full City Council discussed the proposed ordinance at length before voting 9-0 to table the ordinance until the Monday, November 28 City Council meeting. It was agreed at the City Council meeting that staff will make a good faith effort to notify and engage as many of the potentially affected buildings as possible prior to the next meeting. At the Mayor's request, the ordinance was pushed to the **Monday, December 12 City Council meeting**. These two Evanston Now articles provide summaries of the discussion and public comment during the meeting: [Recap: City Council, Monday, September 26](#) and [City postpones plan to police energy use](#).

December 12, 2016 – The benchmarking ordinance was passed with a 7-2 vote from City Council. Here is the [meeting packet](#), benchmarking was item A17.

Past Meeting Details and Summaries

Update Presentation and Memo to City Council:

[Building Energy and Water Use Benchmarking Ordinance 6-20-16 Update Memo](#)

[Building Energy and Water Use Benchmarking 6-20-16 Update Presentation](#)

Meeting	Date	Documents
Open Drop-in Session #3	11/8/16	Open Sessions Benchmarking Presentation
Open Drop-in Session #2	11/3/16	Open Sessions Benchmarking Presentation
Open Drop-in Session #1	10/26/16	Open Sessions Benchmarking Presentation
Special 1st Ward Meeting	10/18/16	1st Ward Meeting Benchmarking Presentation
Public Comment Open Session #3	7/7/16	Public Comment Presentation
Public Comment Open Session #2	7/6/16	Public Comment Presentation
Public Comment Open Session #1	6/28/16	Public Comment Presentation
Final Stakeholder Meeting	3/24/16	Meeting Presentation
Final Working Group Meeting	3/8/16	Meeting Presentation
Working Group Meeting	1/26/16	Meeting Presentation
Working Group Meeting	12/8/15	Meeting Presentation
Stakeholder Meeting	10/22/15	Meeting Presentation
Working Group Meeting	10/8/15	Meeting Presentation
Working Group Meeting	8/18/15	Meeting Presentation
Working Group Kick-off Meeting	7/14/15	Meeting Presentation
Stakeholder Kick-off Meeting	6/9/15	Meeting Presentation
		Meeting Notes