

Memorandum

July 27, 2021

To: City Council Members

CC: Mike Applegarth, Council Executive Director
Dustin Fratto, Council Assistant Director

From: Zach Robinson, Council Member At-large

Subject: Proposal to implement a biennial energy benchmarking program for municipal buildings

In 2016 Salt Lake City (SLC) implemented "Elevate Buildings," an initiative to identify ways the City could increase energy efficiency, while bolstering economic development, improving air quality, and decreasing energy waste. SLC's Elevate Buildings initiative required all municipal buildings and commercial buildings (over 25,000 square feet) to participate in an annual energy benchmarking program that allowed for both SLC, commercial building owners, and the public to more easily determine whether each building in the program is using more or less energy than its peer facilities within SLC. In addition to allowing this comparison, some benefits of energy benchmarking include:

- Providing objective, reliable information on building energy use and the direct benefits of any improvements year to year.
- Increase general awareness of the energy efficiency of buildings for the benefit of building occupants and/or the public.
- Prioritize poorly performing facilities for immediate improvement.
- Identify best practices in energy efficiency that can be replicated in other buildings.
- Establishes reference points for measuring what good performance looks like.
- Helps to develop possible energy management action plans and build a case for capital investments (retrofits) as necessary.
- Leads to possible savings that will lower energy costs and offset capital investments.

While I am not proposing that Sandy City implement a program that encompasses private commercial buildings, I am suggesting that we work with City Administration to implement an initiative like Elevate Buildings for all major municipal buildings in Sandy City and conduct biennial energy benchmarking. I believe that doing so is, not only, in the best interest of taxpayers and the financially responsible thing to do, but also the right thing to do both environmentally and to set an example as leaders of our Community.

I have included a review of the Salt Lake City program as written by our staff, a copy of the SLC ordinance adopting their benchmarking program, a link to the SLC Elevate Buildings website, and overview of the Energy Star Portfolio Manager used by SLC. I would ask that you review these documents and websites to become familiar with the energy benchmarking idea. Assuming the Council sees this as favorably as I do, I would ask that you provide your blessing through a vote allowing me to work with the necessary staff to come back with a proposed ordinance for adoption at a later date.