

## Energize Denver Task Force: Public Input Process

This document outlines the steps taken to obtain public input during the Energize Denver Task Force process. The document also summarizes the many ways the task force changed and added to their recommendations based on the comments received.

Additional questions we received are answered in our [Frequently Asked Questions](#). Thank you to all who have provided comment. The task force and the City could not meet our goal of ensuring all stakeholders are represented in the process without your input.

### Public Input Process:



### How the Task Force Responded to Comments in their Recommendations:

They heard concerns about the transparent sharing of a building's ENERGY STAR score resulting in shaming the building, or in an inundation of phone calls from energy efficiency companies.

- In response the task force has recommended that the City only publish the scores in a clickable database and/or map where one building's score can be viewed at a time, as opposed to a data set where all scores can be downloaded. In addition, the task force spent much time detailing how the City should use the data to provide report cards and outreach to building owners to help them improve.

They heard many concerns about tenant data privacy.

- In response the task force's proposal has building owners reporting only annual, whole building, energy usage data - the least sensitive type of energy data. The City would not receive any energy cost data or any real time, interval or even monthly data under the ordinance.

They heard concerns that the flexible options the task force proposed for how a building can demonstrate performance or improvements (policies 3, 4, and 5) weren't flexible enough to accommodate some owners' needs.

- In response the task force has added far more flexibility. There are more flexible options for how a building can demonstrate it is a top performer. There are more exemptions written in. A review committee was created in case an owner needs a special exemption or a special compliance option. Similarly, there are flexible off-ramps for how a building can demonstrate that all efficiency measures with less than a 2.5-year payback have been accomplished, thereby exempting them from further improvement requirements. Also, buildings can get credit for action taken before the ordinance passed and a building can bank extra savings from one cycle for future cycles.

The task force heard stakeholders express a need they themselves saw as critical - to ensure the proposal lowers housing costs in Denver.

- Energy efficiency can help keep housing costs affordable in Denver and could especially help low-income residents. Any energy efficiency improvement requirements proposed would payback in less than 3 years, resulting in nothing but savings after that time. Research from the US EPA has shown that energy efficient buildings are 35% more efficient than the average building, putting money back in families' pockets and enabling affordable housing owners to limit rent for tenants while improving resident services. In addition, the task force added a provision allowing an owner who cannot afford to make improvements for one reason or another to petition their special case and needs to a review committee.