

Energy Management in Senior Care Communities

Senior Care Energy Survey Update

Thank you for completing and submitting the Senior Care Energy Survey. Due to your hard work in collecting the data required, we received nearly 800 responses!

To help understand energy use in senior care communities and begin to formulate strategies for energy conservation, American Health Care Association (AHCA) and the National Center for Assisted Living (NCAL) teamed up with the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging (AAHSA), the Assisted Living Federation of America (ALFA), and EPA's ENERGY STAR and launched the first ever energy survey of senior care communities.

We have shared the anonymous data from this survey with the EPA, whose building scientists will analyze the data to determine if they can expand the ENERGY STAR® scoring system to senior care space types. Expanding the ENERGY STAR scoring system to include senior care communities can greatly benefit providers by giving maintenance managers a better understanding of their energy use and the ability to track and evaluate the effectiveness of operations and technical conservation strategies, as well as earn recognition from EPA for environmental leadership. Learn more about benchmarking further down on this page.

Thank you for your efforts in making the Senior Care Energy Survey a success. In conjunction with EPA, we will provide updates on the rating development process as they are available.

If you have any questions, please contact ENERGYSTARHealthcare@icfi.com.

ENERGY STAR Overview

ENERGY STAR is a voluntary program helping to save money and protect our environment through energy-efficient products and practices. Americans, with the help of ENERGY STAR, saved enough energy in 2008 alone to avoid greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to those from 29 million cars – all while saving \$19 billion on their utility bills. The ENERGY STAR is recognized by more than 75 percent of the American public as the symbol for energy efficiency and environmental excellence.

ENERGY STAR currently enjoys the partnership of hundreds of healthcare organizations of varying sizes and types, and helps these organizations to establish and refine their energy management programs. Organizations work with ENERGY STAR to manage energy, promote energy awareness to their communities, differentiate themselves as environmental leaders, and build the energy component of their sustainability efforts. To learn more about ENERGY STAR for Healthcare, please visit www.energystar.gov/healthcare.



Energy Benchmarking Using ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager

You can't manage what you don't measure. [ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager](#) is an online tool that allows *all buildings* – including *healthcare spaces such as senior care communities* – to track and assess energy and water consumption and greenhouse gas emissions within individual buildings as well as across a portfolio.

Enter energy consumption and cost data into your Portfolio Manager account to benchmark building energy performance, identify strategic opportunities for savings, set investment priorities, assess energy management goals over time, and verify results.

Get started by creating your own Portfolio Manager account at www.energystar.gov/istar/pmpam/. Click on "Register" next to "New User". Also, view a step-by-step training on how to enter your senior care facility into Portfolio Manager:

- [Senior Care: Benchmarking Energy Performance Using EPA's Portfolio Manager](#) (56 minutes)

ENERGY STAR Trainings, Tools, and Resources

Below are select ENERGY STAR offerings which can help to senior care communities to strengthen energy management within their community.

ENERGY STAR Senior Care Webinar Series

This Webinar series is intended for representatives – including executives, community level directors, facility managers, and individuals tasked with community management or sustainability initiatives – of companies that own or manage senior care buildings. Sessions overview financial, social, and environmental benefits of reducing energy use and ENERGY STAR technical tools, communications strategies, and ENERGY STAR partner-proven best practices that can help along the way. Viewers can also learn more about efforts under way to develop an Energy Performance Rating for Senior Care buildings.

View the following recorded sessions:

- [Energy Conservation: The Next Frontier for Senior Care Cost Savings](#) (42 minutes)
- [Is My Senior Care Facility Energy Efficient?](#) (71 minutes)
- [Engaging Employees and Senior Care Residents to Save Energy](#) (62 minutes)

ENERGY STAR Guidelines for Energy Management

EPA offers a proven strategy for superior energy management with tools and resources to help each step of the way. Based on the successful practices of ENERGY STAR partners, these [guidelines for energy management](#) can assist your senior care community in improving its energy and financial performance while distinguishing your organization as an environmental leader.

ENERGY STAR Qualified Products

ENERGY STAR [qualified product models](#) use less energy, save money and help protect the environment. EPA has created resources to assist [procurement](#) officials in making smart purchasing decisions. Take advantage of online trainings to understand the full range of purchasing opportunities. Review case studies and the key benefits of purchasing ENERGY STAR-qualified products.

Promoting Energy Efficiency

Show your employees and residents how your facility has taken steps toward reducing your environmental footprint through energy efficiency, and encourage them to become champions for energy conservation. Here are some ideas:

- [Communicate](#) your energy management efforts to residents and staff. Use a video or print [public service announcement](#).
- Remind staff to participate in your energy management program and to "[Bring Your Green to Work](#)."
- Plan an event or involve the local community to [celebrate with ENERGY STAR](#).
- Join the national [Change the World, Start with ENERGY STAR](#) campaign as a pledge driver, encouraging residents and staff to take small, energy-saving steps that make a big difference.

Please visit www.energystar.gov to learn more about ENERGY STAR offerings for your organization.