



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

January 18, 2024

Dear Utility and State Utility Commission Representatives:

The people, properties, and communities you serve need your help to access billions of dollars in Federal funding. As the Federal Government works with state, local, private, and nonprofit entities to invest significant new funding for energy efficiency upgrades in multifamily housing, utility companies play an essential role in ensuring that the communities they serve realize the full benefits of these investments.

Multifamily properties are home to more than 19 million low-income households (over 15% of all U.S. households) and many of these properties need upgrades that would significantly reduce energy and water costs for their residents. The Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (Pub. L. 117-169) is addressing these needs through the provision of more than \$6.6 billion in funding for U.S. multifamily properties to improve efficiency and lower costs. This includes programs like the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)'s [Green and Resilient Retrofit Program \(GRRP\)](#) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)'s [Home Efficiency Rebate Program](#).

These programs offer tremendous benefits to your constituents and customers through both direct funding and future utility savings for owners and renters. However, in order to streamline participation in these programs and/or maximize the impact of available investments, property owners need access to complete energy use data for their buildings – something which is typically not available to owners of multifamily properties (because individual residents often have their own utility accounts). Therefore, we are asking that you take action to make whole-building utility data available to multifamily owners seeking to improve the efficiency of their properties through these and other programs. Making these data easily available for multifamily properties is critical to the ability of property owners participating in these programs to assess the need for energy upgrades and prioritize those upgrades which will have the greatest benefit to their residents.

We know that it is feasible to provide whole-building utility data for multifamily properties through the development of an [IT solution](#) that aggregates the data from all accounts in a building while maintaining the privacy of individual account holders. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) data, 64 utilities in 28 states serving 11,442 zip codes currently provide aggregate whole-building data, but this covers only a small percentage of our nation's buildings, and large swaths of the country have no data available for owners (a map showing the availability of this data can be found at www.energystar.gov/utilitydata). EPA also offers [Guidance for Utilities on Providing Whole-Building Energy Data](#) as well as one-on-one support to utilities interested in making this data available to owners.

By championing the availability of whole-building utility data access, you will play an important role in facilitating cost-effective investments in the communities you serve. EPA, DOE, and HUD strongly encourage you to join us in ensuring that the Federal Government's efficiency investments achieve maximum results and that owners and residents in your jurisdiction benefit from these investments by making available whole-building utility data for your respective jurisdiction(s). If you have questions, need additional information, or would like examples of best practices, please contact EPA at statelocal@energystar.gov.

Sincerely,



DOE SECRETARY

HUD SECRETARY

EPA ADMINISTRATOR