

In this issue:

- Minnesota Public Portal
- Spreadsheet import feature
- Interval reading capabilities
- Sub-metering opportunity
- B3 User Profile: Hopkins
- Features of the (near) Future

Join us for an up-coming webinar!

- New Features (30 min)
[March 12th at 10am](#) or
[March 18th at 11:30am](#)
- Basic Overview (60 min)
[March 6th at 1pm](#)

Learning Center

New [videos](#) about specific B3 Benchmarking topics help you gain the skills you need fast including:

- New Features
- How to Verify Data Accuracy
- Create Building Versions
- Errors and Warnings

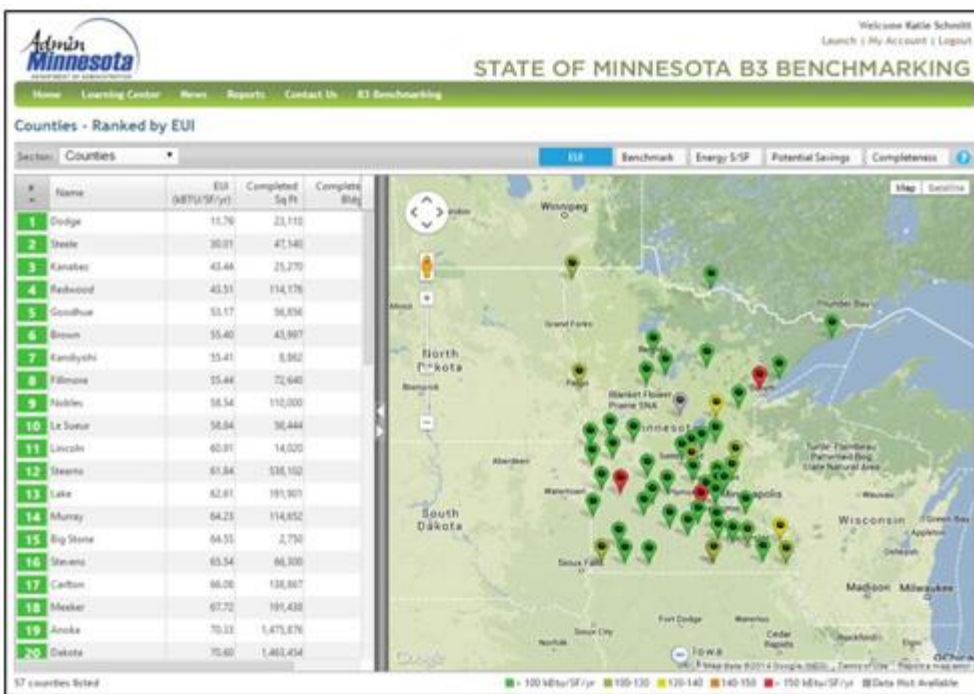
Launch B3 Benchmarking

Update meter readings, verify building data, and analyze your portfolio.

Introducing: the MN Public Portal

Are you curious how your organization stacks up to others in Minnesota? The [MN Public Portal](#), a new B3 website open to anyone, shows energy performance for all public MN entities. Even without a username and password, you are able to view your organization's EUI, Benchmark, Potential Savings, and Completeness level and compare those metrics to others in your particular sector, which includes cities, counties, state agencies, and schools, or program, such as GreenStep Cities.

Because this portal will go LIVE on MAY 1, 2014, we recommend that you ensure your data is complete and current!



Excel Spreadsheet Meter Reading Import - Now Available!

You asked for it, and we listened. B3 Benchmarking now offers another free method for meter reading entry - the Excel spreadsheet import. This new feature facilitates faster meter reading entry and large historical data uploads with the familiar Microsoft Excel software. Want a tutorial? Log in and learn how to utilize this new feature [here](#).



Launch B3

Featured FAQ:

How do I edit the characteristics and attributes of a site or organization?

Access an organization or site as applicable. Then, locate the permanent buttons at the top right corner of the application. Click the notepad icon to change the name and attributes as well as add notes about the site or organization.

"If you can't measure it, you can't manage it."

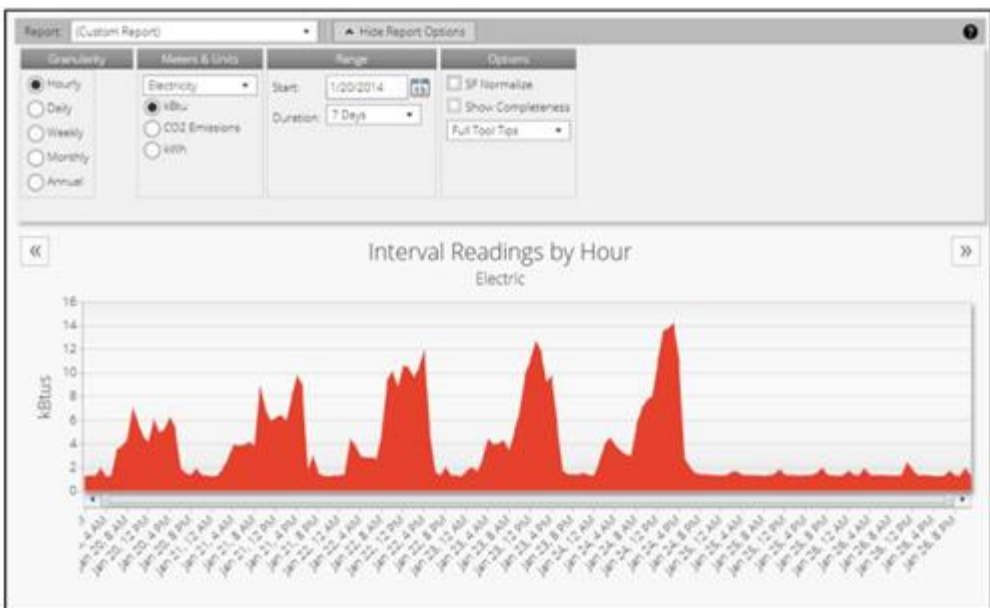


New! Interval Reading Capabilities

Seeing that monitoring monthly energy consumption is extremely valuable in detecting building issues and prioritizing building improvements, imagine what enhanced granularity can do! B3 Benchmarking now accommodates short - interval meter readings such as 15-minute, hourly, and daily intervals, which can help you fine-tune your building operations more accurately and efficiently.

You may be asking yourself: where do such interval readings come from? The answer is:

- Some utilities measure energy consumption at short intervals. Contact your utility to find out if they have such data available to you.
- Sub-meter your buildings. See the announcement below for a great opportunity!



Announcement: Sub-metering with B3 and ERP

Understanding energy usage at user-defined intervals is important for effective building management, which is why B3 Benchmarking and Energy Resource Products (ERP) have teamed up to provide a turnkey solution that:

- allows organizations & campuses to sub-meter by individual buildings, spaces, or by fuel end-use
- measures energy consumption for the building at user-defined intervals from hourly to monthly
- collects and transmits data automatically, thereby eliminating tedious, manual data transcription from invoices
- captures all forms of energy from electric to steam to solar
- uploads data directly to the B3 Benchmarking

Want to learn more? [Contact us!](#)



B3 User Profile: City of Hopkins

Since 2009, the City of Hopkins has incorporated B3 Benchmarking into city operations. Then, in 2010 it took a step further in managing not only the city's buildings but also its overall sustainability performance by participating in the [GreenStep Cities](#) program, which provides tools, resources, and support for improvement projects. Recently, we talked with Jay Strachota, Hopkins' Streets and Parks Superintendent, about how they use B3 Benchmarking.

How does the city use the tool? "We use it in a couple of ways. First, we have used the information that was readily available in the tool for grant writing and reporting. We also use it to compare our facilities to similar facilities. Moreover, there are times when the buildings staff knows there are savings to be had in a project, and with the tool, they are able to quantify and demonstrate the potential savings for reports."

How does Hopkins populate the tool? "Our Public Works Receptionist takes the utility bills and enters the information into the tool."

What are the benefits you've noticed? "With the tool, we can make small or large adjustments in the facilities and see how that affects our consumption. For instance, we ask questions like, "what if we decide to turn off certain banks of lights in off peak hours?" and we can find the answer. By tracking consumption, the tool can tell us how worthwhile such efforts are for us."

Features of the (near) Future!

B3 Benchmarking Improvement Report

Just like a bank statement, the B3 Improvement Report will give you a snapshot of your organization's energy performance and help you identify specific sites for improvements based on Benchmark and Baseline analysis. *Coming soon.*



If you would no longer like to receive the B3 Buzz, please reply with UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line.