



USGBC
2101 L STREET, NW
SUITE 500
WASHINGTON DC 20037
202 828-7422
USGBC.ORG

FOUNDERS

David Gottfried
Michael Italiano
S. Richard Fedrizzi

January 10, 2020

Saint Paul City Councilmembers
15 Kellogg Blvd W
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Re: Support of Proposed Ordinance 19-81 - Energy Benchmarking

Dear Councilmembers,

We are writing in whole-hearted support of the proposed City Ordinance 19-81. The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) is a global non-profit dedicated to the advancement of sustainable buildings and communities for all, representing nearly 9,000 companies nationwide and 120+ Minnesota companies who are members. USGBC is best known as the developers of the Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) green building program, as well as the companion tool Arc. Arc is a digital platform for sustainability performance benchmarking, providing an innovative and streamlined solution for understanding the total carbon emissions across the built environment, from buildings to cities and beyond.

Benchmarking is a simple, low cost and proven strategy to drive greenhouse gas emission reductions. Requiring the largest buildings in the Saint Paul community to annually benchmark their energy and water consumption will help the City meet their goal of carbon neutrality in building energy use by 2050. Decarbonizing existing buildings is critical to meeting city-wide carbon reduction goals and Minnesota's goal of 80 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions statewide by 2050.

Thank you for your work in establishing requirements for benchmarking commercial and multifamily buildings. State and local leadership on green building has never been more important; by passing this ordinance, the City Council will be taking an important step towards making our city more resilient. Thank you for outstanding work on sustainability initiatives at the City!

Please do be in touch if we can be of further assistance.

Sheri Brezinka
Regional Director, West North Central
U.S. Green Building Council
(612) 644-1750
sbrezinka@usgbc.org

Jennifer Gunby
Manager, State and Local Advocacy
U.S. Green Building Council
(913) 488-9094
jgunby@usgbc.org