



# ENERGY BENCHMARKING SERVICES

USER GUIDE



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## CONNECTING TO OUR ENERGY BENCHMARKING SERVICE

Our Energy Benchmarking service gives you access to a direct feed of whole-building energy usage data from our metered data repository right to your ENERGY STAR® Portfolio Manager® account. If you haven't already, set up a Portfolio Manager account following Steps 1 through 3. If you're already set up in Portfolio Manager, skip down to Step 4.



## STEP 1

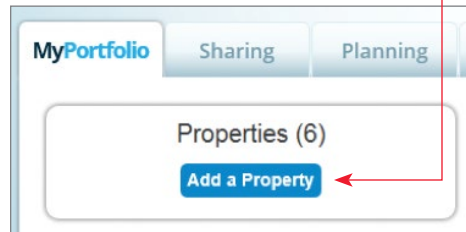
## CREATE AN ACCOUNT IN PORTFOLIO MANAGER

Portfolio Manager website: <https://portfoliomanager.energystar.gov/pm/>

## STEP 2

## CREATE A PROPERTY IN PORTFOLIO MANAGER

1. Click **Add a Property**.



2. Enter general property characteristics.

3. Click on **Get Started!**

**Get Started!**

4. Enter property information.

5. Click **Continue**.

**Continue**

6. Enter values or leave blank for now (optional).

7. Click on **Add Property**.

**Add Property**

## STEP 3

# CREATE METERS IN PORTFOLIO MANAGER

Once you have created your property in Portfolio Manager®, you have the ability to create a meter(s) for:

1. The entire building as an aggregate whole,
2. Each individual tenant in your building, or
3. Any combination in between.

Xcel Energy's Energy Benchmarking service will accommodate any of these options, but if you are looking to benchmark total building usage, we encourage you to utilize option 1. This will allow you the greatest opportunity to bypass the requirement to obtain individual customer consent forms.

1. Click on the **Energy** tab. Once you are in this tab select **Add A Meter**.

Note that Xcel Energy only supports the transfer of electricity purchased from the grid and natural gas at this time.

### Gas transportation customers

If you receive your natural gas from a third-party provider, we are not currently able to transfer this data to Portfolio Manager for you. Please work directly with your third-party provider in order to access this information.

### District steam and chilled water customers

If you receive district steam and chilled water, we are not currently able to transfer this data to Portfolio Manager for you. Please work directly with your district steam and chilled water provider to access this information.

\*for Xcel Energy district steam and chilled water customers, configure your meters in Portfolio Manager as follows:

District service meter type units

Steam district steam kLbs. (thousand pounds)

Chilled water district chilled water from an electric-driven chiller ton hours

### Onsite solar or wind generation customers

For customers with a solar photovoltaic (PV) system or wind turbine, Xcel Energy currently is not able to transfer the electricity generation data to Portfolio Manager for you. Please refer to your Xcel Energy billing statements to access this information. Note that Xcel Energy will transfer the gross electricity provided to the site from the grid under the electric grid meter in Portfolio Manager. You will need to create an additional electric solar meter or electric wind meter for the onsite generation system and enter the production data for that system with that meter. More information can be found at <https://www.energystar.gov/buildings/tools-and-resources/portfolio-manager-technical-reference-green-power>

2. Select all energy sources for your property.

In setting up your meters, use the following table to help guide the number of meters to input for each fuel:

Option	Suggested number of meters in Portfolio Manager
1	One for each fuel type served by Xcel Energy (ie. One electric and one gas, if applicable)
2	One for each tenant
3	One for each sub-unit of your building that you would like to analyze

3. Click on **Get Started!**

**Get Started!**

4. Enter fields for meters.

NOTE: To set up meters, you need to enter units and the date when the meter became active. Enter values in these fields by clicking in the black space under that field heading.

Xcel Energy will provide natural gas consumption data in “therms” and electric data in “kWh.” **It is very important that you use these measurement units when setting up your meters in Portfolio Manager.**

2 Energy Meters for Ren Box Test (click table to edit)								
<input type="checkbox"/>	Meter Name	Type	Other Type	Units	Date Meter became Active	In Use?	Date Meter became Inactive	Enter as Delivery?
<input type="checkbox"/>	Natural Gas	Natural Gas		therms	1/1/2013	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Electric Grid Meter	Electric - Grid		kWh (thousand Watt-hours)	1/1/2013	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>

If you have multiple meters of the same type, use the Meter Name Field to help Xcel Energy understand how to assign your tenants to each meter (i.e. “first floor retail” or “common areas”).

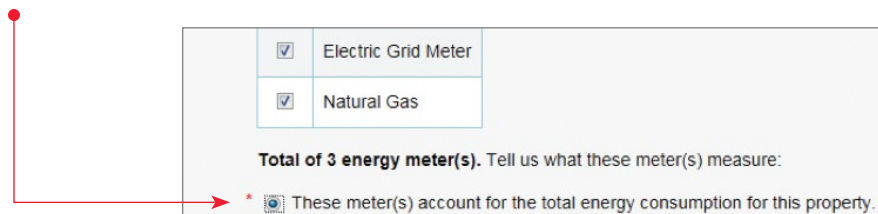
5. Click on **Create Meters**.



6. Skip usage entries, and click on **Continue**.



7. Select **These meter(s) account for the total energy consumption for this property.**

A screenshot of a web interface showing a list of selected meters. The list includes "Electric Grid Meter" and "Natural Gas", both with checked checkboxes. Below the list, it says "Total of 3 energy meter(s). Tell us what these meter(s) measure:". A red arrow points from the text above to a radio button that is selected, with the text "These meter(s) account for the total energy consumption for this property." next to it.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Electric Grid Meter
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Natural Gas

Total of 3 energy meter(s). Tell us what these meter(s) measure:

These meter(s) account for the total energy consumption for this property.

8. Click on **Apply Selections**.



**Congratulations**, you’ve successfully set up your property and meters in Portfolio Manager. Now you’re ready to connect to our benchmarking service.

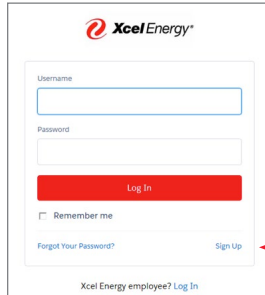
# CONNECTING TO OUR ENERGY BENCHMARKING SERVICE

## STEP 4

### SET UP AN ACCOUNT IN THE XCEL ENERGY BENCHMARKING PORTAL

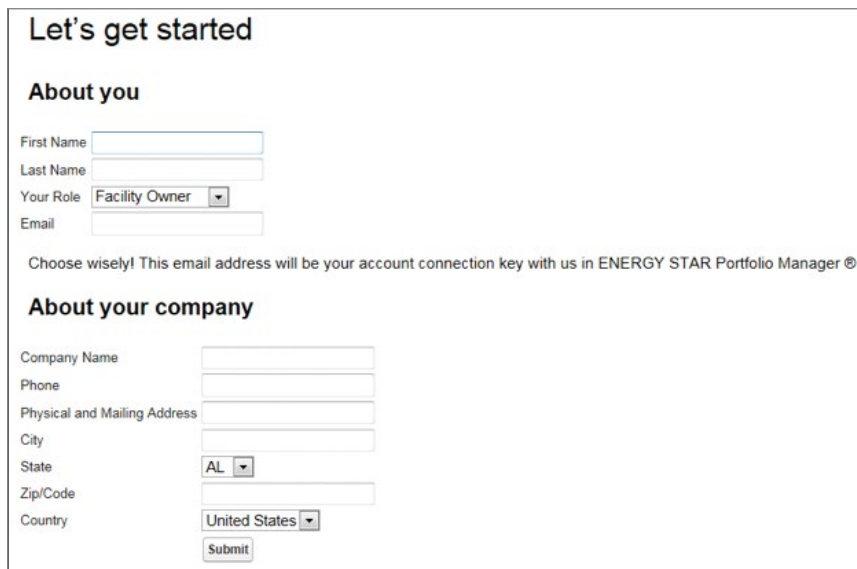
Xcel Energy Benchmarking portal: <https://xcelenergy.force.com/benchmarking>

1. Click on **Sign Up**.



The screenshot shows the Xcel Energy login and sign-up interface. It includes a 'Log In' button and a 'Sign Up' link. A red arrow points from the 'Sign Up' link to the 'Sign Up' button.

2. Enter your information. Make sure to use the same email as the one you used in Portfolio Manager®.



The screenshot shows the 'Let's get started' registration form. It is divided into two main sections: 'About you' and 'About your company'. The 'About you' section includes fields for First Name, Last Name, Your Role (Facility Owner), and Email. The 'About your company' section includes fields for Company Name, Phone, Physical and Mailing Address, City, State (AL), Zip/Code, and Country (United States). A 'Submit' button is located at the bottom of the form.

Once you have clicked Submit, you will receive an email from **noreply@benchmarking.com** indicating you need to log in and change your password.

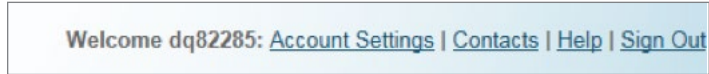
3. Click on the e-mail link you received from Xcel Energy and log in to the portal.



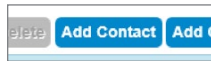
## STEP 5

# BACK IN PORTFOLIO MANAGER, CONNECT YOUR ACCOUNT WITH XCEL ENERGY

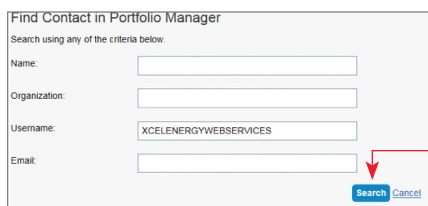
1. In Portfolio Manager, click on **Contacts**.



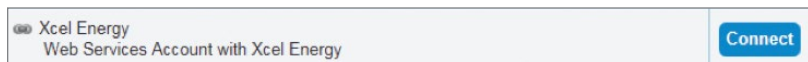
2. Click on **Add Contact**.



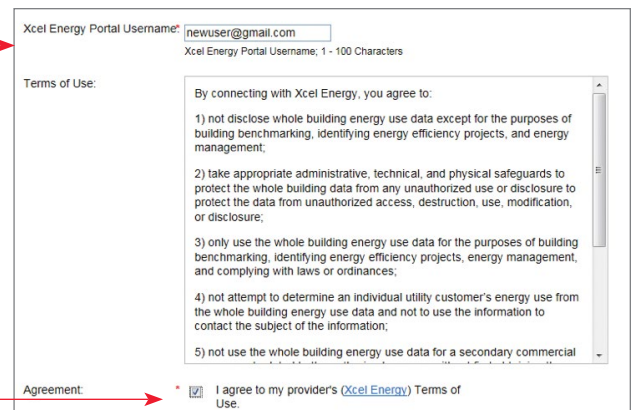
3. Under contact username, type: **XCELENERGYWEBSERVICES** and click on **Search**.



4. When the contact shows up, click on **Connect**.



5. Type in your log-in email you set up for the Xcel Energy Benchmarking portal. (You must use the same email address used to create your account in Step 4, on page 6 of this user guide.) Then agree to Terms of Use by checking the box.



6. Click on **Send Connection Request**.

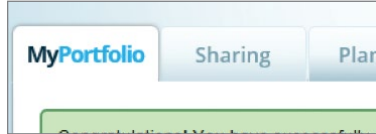
**Send Connection Request**

7. Xcel Energy will notify you via email when your account connection request has been received and connected. **Allow 30 minutes.**
8. When the email arrives, log back in to your Portfolio Manager account.

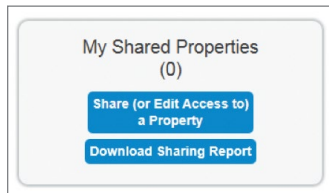
## STEP 6

# SHARE YOUR PROPERTY AND METERS WITH XCEL ENERGY

1. Click on the **Sharing** tab.



2. Click on **Share (or Edit Access to) a Property**.



3. Select the properties that you would like to share.

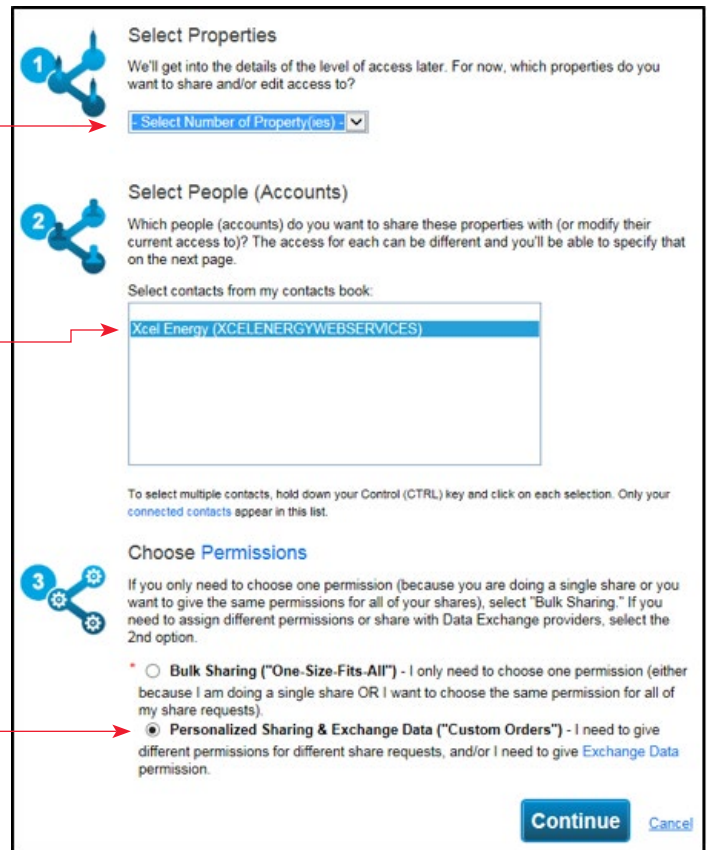
4. Select people: Indicate **Xcel Energy**.

5. Choose permissions –  
Select the button **Personalized Sharing and Exchange Data**.

6. Click on **Continue**.



7. Select **Exchange Data**.

A screenshot of a multi-step sharing process. Step 1: 'Select Properties' with a dropdown menu for 'Select Number of Property(ies)'. Step 2: 'Select People (Accounts)' with a list of contacts, 'Xcel Energy (XCELENERGYWEBSERVICES)' is selected. Step 3: 'Choose Permissions' with two radio button options: 'Bulk Sharing ("One-Size-Fits-All")' and 'Personalized Sharing & Exchange Data ("Custom Orders")', which is selected. A 'Continue' button is at the bottom right.

Name (ID)	No Access	Read Only Access	Full Access	Custom Access	Exchange Data
▼ Test (6188684)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Xcel Energy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



- Give full access to property information as well as all Xcel Energy delivered fuel meters\*\*  
If you do not share with full access, Xcel Energy will not be able to update your property.

Select the permission level below that you would like to grant [Xcel Energy](#) for each category.

Item	None	Read Only Access	Full Access
Property Information	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
▼ All Meter Information			
Electric Grid Meter	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Natural Gas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Goals, Improvements, & Checklists	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Recognition	<input type="radio"/>		<input checked="" type="radio"/>

- Make a selection regarding “Share forward.”  
(This gives Xcel Energy permission to share the property with others). If you’re participating in an Xcel Energy program or plan to at some point in the future, this may be beneficial, but is not required.
- Click on [Apply Selections and Authorize Exchange](#).



- Scroll down, and click on [Share Property\(ies\)](#).



- Verify [Sharing Requests](#) have been sent.  
Your sharing notifications will automatically appear in the Sharing Notifications section of the Sharing Tab under your Portfolio Manager account.

Sharing Notifications (3) <a href="#">View All</a>	
<a href="#">Ren Box Test</a> - Sharing request sent to <a href="#">Xcel Energy</a>	<input type="button" value="Cancel"/> <input type="button" value="Clear"/>
<a href="#">Natural Gas</a> - Sharing request sent to <a href="#">Xcel Energy</a>	<input type="button" value="Cancel"/> <input type="button" value="Clear"/>

- Xcel Energy retrieves connection requests.  
When Xcel Energy has retrieved the share requests, they will be automatically accepted and an email will be sent to you. **Allow 30 minutes.** If your requests were declined for any reason, go back to Step 6 and ensure that the appropriate permission levels have been set for both the Property and Meters.

## STEP 7

### BACK IN PORTFOLIO MANAGER, CONNECT YOUR ACCOUNT WITH XCEL ENERGY

We require that if anyone other than the building owner is requesting data on the building owner's behalf, that requester needs to obtain authorization from the building owner before proceeding. If you are the building owner, this step will not require any action from you. If you are not, this authorization can be completed using the customer energy usage data release forms found at the following link: [xcelenergy.com/DataConsent](https://xcelenergy.com/DataConsent)

Use the following instructions when completing the consent form:

- 1) Specify your (the third party's) contact information, including identifying a contact person who the customer may contact with questions related to the data release request.
- 2) Describe the purpose(s) of the proposed use of customer energy usage data. Be sure to include Energy Benchmarking in your description of the purpose.
- 3) Provide the consent form to the customer of record and have the customer enter their account number, service address and name in the customer section of the consent form, and sign and date the form.
- 4) Submit the completed release request consent form to Xcel Energy, by sending an email to [datarequest@xcelenergy.com](mailto:datarequest@xcelenergy.com) and copying [benchmarking@xcelenergy.com](mailto:benchmarking@xcelenergy.com). Invalid or incomplete forms will be returned, and their request for information release will not be honored.

## STEP 8

### XCEL ENERGY WILL COMPILE YOUR TENANT LIST

This may take up to five business days, depending on the complexity of the building. We will send you an e-mail if we get stuck. No action is required of you at this stage.

## STEP 9

### TENANT TO METER MATCHING

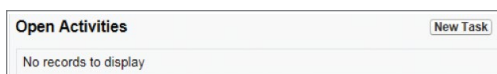
We will make an initial attempt to match tenants to the meters you shared in Step 3. If we have any questions, we'll reach out to you.

The system will analyze the configuration to see if individual customer consent forms are required. At this point, you will receive an email from us indicating one of the following:

- a. Individual tenant consent is required (Step 10)
- b. Consumption data was successfully published to your Portfolio Manager account (Step 11)

If you need to adjust the tenant list for any reason, create a task for Xcel Energy within the Benchmarking Portal.

- a. Scroll down to open activities and click on New Task



Open Activities	New Task
No records to display	

- b. Fill out the form, click on **Send**.

We will contact you if we have any additional questions.

## STEP 10

### WORK THROUGH CONSENT PROCESS

Note that if you chose option 1 when setting up your meters, this step may not apply to you. Depending on the number of tenants in your building, you may require consent from individual tenants.

1. Receive notification from Xcel Energy telling you that consent forms are required from one or more tenants.
  1. Click on the link embedded in the notification email to download a copy of the customer consent form.
  2. Complete the consent form with the required tenants according to the directions in Step 7.
  3. Email consent form to [benchmarking@xcelenergy.com](mailto:benchmarking@xcelenergy.com)
2. Xcel Energy will validate the consent form and notify you if more information is needed.

## STEP 11

### INITIAL UPLOAD

1. Property status should be set to "Ready for Processing."

Xcel Energy will begin processing your property. If additional questions arise, we will contact you. But if not, you should see 36 months of energy data populated to your meters in Portfolio Manager within two business days.
2. Data is automatically uploaded into Portfolio Manager.

Monthly Entries							
Display Year(s): <input type="button" value="Show All Years x"/>							
	Start Date	End Date	Usage kWh (thousand Watt-hours)	Cost (\$)	Estimation	Green Power	Last Updated
<input type="checkbox"/>	7/1/2012	7/31/2012	585,882.83		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	12/6/2015 <a href="#">Xcel Energy</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	8/1/2012	8/31/2012	900,432.41		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	12/6/2015 <a href="#">Xcel Energy</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	9/1/2012	9/30/2012	833,855.09		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	12/6/2015 <a href="#">Xcel Energy</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	10/1/2012	10/31/2012	1,317,613.65		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	12/6/2015 <a href="#">Xcel Energy</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	11/1/2012	11/30/2012	1,377,222.37		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	12/6/2015 <a href="#">Xcel Energy</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	12/1/2012	12/31/2012	1,661,248.03		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	12/6/2015 <a href="#">Xcel Energy</a>

## STEP 12

### ONGOING PROCESSING

After a month has passed, ongoing processing will display new or updated usage totals.

