



BETA OVERVIEW

OVERVIEW

The BIT Building Program was formed by a group of sustainable real estate professionals with the mission to develop a green building improvement program for existing buildings that engages all types of property owners and operators in environmental sustainability best practices.

BIT provides a set of industry standards that are cost effective and straightforward to implement in all building types, including the lowest performers, and aims to build a strong brand and third-part recognition for improvements to catalyze the spread of these best practices.

HOW IT WORKS



ENROLL

Pay \$300 per building and provide basic building information



IMPLEMENT

Access BIT tools and adopt 16 proven O&M sustainability best practices



IMPROVE

Track improvement from baseline for energy, water, and waste performance



ACHIEVE

Receive 3rd-party achievement designations for significant improvement

BENEFITS OF BIT

- Demonstrate commitment and be recognized for sustainable building operations
- Streamline operations with a single program for all buildings in a portfolio
- Access tools & resources to improve performance and reduce operating costs
- Strengthen marketing & reporting through sound practices and alignment with a positive brand
- Shift resources from managing in-house sustainability standards to improving performance
- Gain third-party recognition for your sustainability achievements to help demonstrate your progress to stakeholders

BENEFITS OF BIT BETA PARTICIPATION

- Help shape the program
- Prepare your firm for the public launch of BIT
- Network with other sustainable real estate leaders
- Be recognized for early leadership
- Receive free Year 1 enrollment in the fully launched program

CONTACT

For questions, reach out to info@bitbuilding.org



BETA FAQ

FAQs

WHO IS BEHIND THE PROGRAM?

The BIT Building Program is the initiative of an Illinois-based 501c3 non-profit organization. The program was developed by a group of sustainable real estate professionals who have extensive experience working in existing buildings to improve environmental performance and implement best practices, using frameworks and tools such as LEED-EBOM, ENERGY STAR, the GHG Protocol, and GRESB. The Board of Directors includes Dan Ackerstein, Ackerstein Sustainability, Principal, LEED Faculty; Jenny Carney, YR&G, Principal, LEED Fellow; and, Sundee Wislow, JLL, Senior Director - Energy and Sustainability.

WHAT WILL THE BETA ENTAIL AND WHAT IS EXPECTED OF PARTICIPANTS?

Beta participants commit to implementing 16 best practices over time; establishing baselines for energy, water and waste performance; and working towards performance improvements from those baselines. Participants can remain confidential, or be acknowledged for their participation. Participants receive a program orientation session, invitations to monthly calls to ask questions and share experiences, and access to program materials including the BIT user guide detailing the 16 best practice requirements and implementation tools and resources. Participants are also invited to provide feedback and participate in the process of helping shape the program and associated tools.

HOW IS BIT COMPLEMENTARY TO LEED FOR EXISTING BUILDINGS OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE?

LEED-EBOM recognizes top performers. BIT is designed to engage a broad base of buildings in sustainable operations and can be applied across any portfolio to improve performance from any starting point. BIT Buildings that make substantial performance improvements may over time become eligible for the elite LEED designation. BIT best practices are conceptually aligned with LEED-EBOM to facilitate eventual LEED certification for interested buildings.

WILL THERE BE SPECIFIC SOFTWARE OR A REPORTING PLATFORM THAT BUILDINGS NEED TO USE?

Energy and water metrics will be tracked using the US EPA's ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager. BIT will establish open source criteria such that existing EMS and dashboard programs can modify their platforms to offer tracking and reporting that helps buildings demonstrate compliance with this program's criteria.

HOW DOES IT RELATE TO MUNICIPAL BENCHMARKING AND DISCLOSURE?

BIT is a voluntary program with tools that help building managers improve performance and gain positive recognition for adopting sustainable practices. Building owners and operators in energy or water benchmarking disclosure jurisdictions may realize their building performance is lagging relative to peers. Becoming a BIT Building will provide resources and a path towards efficiency improvements.