



April 24, 2019

Press Release
For Immediate Release

Windfall Ecology Centre Launches Benchmarking Help Centre

Aurora: Windfall Ecology Centre is opening a *Benchmarking Help Centre* to assist York Region commercial building owners in lowering operating costs as they comply with Ontario's Energy and Water Reporting and Benchmarking (EWRB) regulation.

The new regulation, O.Reg. 506/18, requires owners of buildings over 50,000 square feet to report energy and water consumption annually using the free Portfolio Manager Benchmarking tool. The regulation is administered by the Ontario Ministry of Energy, Mines, and Northern Development and came into force last year. By measuring energy and water consumption and benchmarking against comparable buildings, businesses are motivated to take actions that reduce consumption, operating costs, and greenhouse gas emissions.

Windfall Centre Executive Director, Brent Kopperson, notes that 'Canadian buildings represent 11% of domestic GHG emissions and are more energy-intensive than those of other developed countries, including those with similar climates.' He adds that, 'energy benchmarking is a proven energy management strategy that can positively and quickly impact your bottom line and make your business more competitive.'

The new program is funded by Natural Resources Canada as part of Canada's plan to meet emissions reduction targets, grow the economy, and build resilience to a changing climate.

The Benchmarking Help Centre is to be operated by the ClimateWise Business Network, whose membership consists of York Region businesses and institutions that are leading the way to a sustainable future. Benchmarking Help Centre services are available to all York Region building owners and operators. 'We are excited to be introducing this valuable service to York Region Businesses', said ClimateWise Program Manager, Harry French. 'There are many benefits to energy and water benchmarking and we look forward to helping our business community succeed.'

The next EWRB compliance deadline is July 1, 2019 and the Ministry of Energy, Mines, and Northern Development is expected to begin issuing compliance notices this month and The Benchmarking Help Centre will be available to help navigate the new requirements.

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