

# MULTIFAMILY UTILITY DATA COLLECTION DATABASE

For multifamily building owners with utility accounts paid for by tenants, benchmarking energy consumption can be challenging, in part because each utility provider requires owners to follow a different procedure to access tenant-level energy consumption data.

This database helps owners navigate that challenge with a comprehensive catalogue of many major United States utilities and their procedures to release tenant-level and whole building energy use and cost data.

This utility profile summarizes the process for requesting data from **City of Columbus OH Public Utilities**. See the back page for detailed instructions and definitions. Visit the [HUD Exchange](#) to find the full utility database.

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## UTILITY NAME

City of Columbus OH Public Utilities

### USER-FRIENDLY SCORE

1 (most challenging) to 4 (most user-friendly)

*Overall User-Friendly Score: 3.3*

*Provides Tenant Data to Owner Score: 4*  
Provides actual monthly tenant-level data

*Tenant Data Release Forms Score: 4*  
Does not require release form

*Tenant Data Comprehensiveness Score: 3*  
Historic energy use and cost data, by billing period

*Data Format Score: 2*  
Screen shot, print out and/or PDF

*Connected to Portfolio Manager: No*

### DATA RELEASE FORMS

[Generic tenant data release form](#)

### SERVICE AREA

Ohio

### ADDRESS

City of Columbus OH Public Utilities  
910 Dublin Road  
Columbus, OH 43215

### WEBSITE

[Utility main website](#)

### CUSTOMER SERVICE CONTACT

Customer Service  
[Email Customer Service](#)  
Phone: 1-614-645-8276  
Fax: 1-614-645-0222

### SUPERVISOR CONTACT

None available

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VISIT THE [HUD EXCHANGE](#) TO SEE THE FULL DATABASE AND FIND OTHER UTILITIES

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## DEFINITIONS

**AGGREGATED DATA:** Some utilities can consolidate data for entire properties, rather than for each tenant. This option eliminates a need to collect forms from tenants to access data.

**ANTICIPATED DIFFICULTY:** This database scores utilities based on their ability to provide tenant data, aggregated data, whether they charge to release data, and format of the data they provide.

**BENCHMARKING ORDINANCE:** Some jurisdictions have legislation that requires building owners to benchmark their buildings. Utilities in these regions typically provide better access to data.

**GREEN BUTTON:** A standard data format that utilities can use to issue energy use data.

**PORTFOLIO MANAGER:** The Environmental Protection Agency's Portfolio Manager is a free tool that property owners can use to evaluate building performance. Some utilities have compatibility with the tool's Web Services feature, which can auto-populate energy data.

**TENANT WAIVER:** To protect customer privacy, many utilities require building owners to collect tenant waivers before they will release data to the owner.

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## POTENTIAL CHALLENGES WORKING WITH THIS UTILITY

Challenge 1: Individual tenant data is provided in the form of paper or PDF, one page for energy usage and one page for cost history.

## HOW TO REQUEST DATA FROM THIS UTILITY

### HOW TO REQUEST TENANT-LEVEL DATA

Step 1: The utility will provide the prior 12 months of energy usage history for a multifamily building without a release form. Property owners or their representatives may request usage history by emailing the account number and address to the customer service email address. The utility requires tenant data release forms in order to release cost data. The owner or representative may email release forms to the customer service email address, using a generic tenant release form.

Step 2: Within two weeks, the utility will email the property representative a PDF usage history report and a separate PDF cost report (if requested). The usage history will display the kwh consumption, meter read dates and total dollar cost monthly.

### HOW TO REQUEST AGGREGATED WHOLE-BUILDING DATA

Not applicable. Utility does not release aggregated data for residential buildings.

*Disclaimer: This data is current as of 3/29/17. Please note that utilities regularly update energy data release policies. This database includes scores, challenges, and steps associated with obtaining tenant data for multifamily properties, as reported by customer service agents. Contact your utility to confirm their process before requesting data.*