

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 **Columbia Gas of Maryland**. See the back page for detailed instructions and definitions. Visit the [HUD Exchange](#) to find the full utility database.

UTILITY NAME

Columbia Gas of Maryland

USER-FRIENDLY SCORE

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

Overall User-Friendly Score: 2.8

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

Tenant Data Release Forms Score: 3
Accepts generic release forms

Tenant Data Comprehensiveness Score: 2
Historic energy use

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

Maryland

ADDRESS

Columbia Gas of Maryland
55 Sycamore St
Hangerstown, MD 02174

WEBSITE

[Utility Main Website](#)

CUSTOMER SERVICE CONTACT

Customer Service
[None available](#)
Phone: 1-888-460-4332
Fax: 1-866-234-2874

SUPERVISOR CONTACT

None available

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

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.

POTENTIAL CHALLENGES WORKING WITH THIS UTILITY

Challenge 1: Utility does not accept external emails.

Challenge 2: Property representative must fax a data release authorization for each tenant.

Challenge 3: Utility considers forms to be valid for a limited period - one time.

Challenge 4: Utility releases data in a challenging format - PDF / hard copy.

Challenge 5: Utility does not provide cost data.

HOW TO REQUEST DATA FROM THIS UTILITY

HOW TO REQUEST TENANT-LEVEL DATA

Step 1: Property owners or their representatives may fax tenant data requests to the customer service contact, providing a set of tenant release forms, and specifying a date range, account number, and a contact to whom the utility should provide data (i.e. name and email). A property representative may either use a generic or a utility-specific form.

Step 2: Within 1-3 days, the utility will provide data in PDF format, including energy use history for each account, for the date range requested.

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.