

# Glossary

**Airtightness:** A building's resistance to air leakage through areas of the building enclosure not intended to allow airflow.

**Authority having jurisdiction:** A municipality—or the province or territory—responsible for enforcing compliance with the building code.

**Building code:** A law or regulation that establishes requirements for the design and construction of new buildings. Building codes ensure new construction meets minimum health, safety, and performance standards.

**Building energy performance:** Defined using an “asset rating” (i.e., the theoretical or simulated energy use in a building under a set of defined conditions) or an “operational rating” (i.e., the building's actual energy use, typically measured from energy bills and consumption).

**Building envelope:** The building's physical separation between the conditioned and unconditioned environment, including walls, floors, ceilings, windows, doors, etc.

**Compliance:** Applies to covered buildings and demonstrates that requirements of a building code or BPS are met, either through the performance threshold or standard or through other paths as defined by the policy.

**Electrification:** As a decarbonization strategy, electrification shifts heating and cooking loads to electricity. Energy efficiency is a core component of electrification, as a well-insulated building envelope and low-energy equipment and appliances reduce thermal and electrical energy demands. As a result, low-carbon heating and mechanical equipment can be used in place of fossil-fuel alternatives.

**Energy performance certificate (EPC):** A record of a building's energy efficiency using an A to G rating scale (i.e., A is the most efficient and G is the least efficient). The certificate also lists a building's potential rating if all cost-effective measures are installed.

**ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager:** An online resource management tool that enables energy benchmarking of any type of building.



**ENERGY STAR 1-100 score:** Score compares a building's energy performance to other similar building types, normalized for weather and operating characteristics. A score of 50 represents median performance. A higher score is better than average; a lower one is worse.

**Greenhouse gas intensity (GHGI):** A measure of the greenhouse gas emissions associated with the use of all the energy required to operate a building. It is measured on an annual basis, and emissions are divided by the building's floor area. It is expressed as  $2\text{kgCO}_2\text{e/m}^2$ .

**Metric:** The unit of measurement (energy, carbon or other) that will be used to report data and compliance. A BPS can have multiple metrics which, taken together, define the areas the city deems most important in achieving its goals.

**Model code:** Canada's national model codes set out minimum requirements and form the basis of most building design in the country. It is a model set of requirements which provide for the health and safety of the public in buildings. These are produced nationally and published for adoption by authorities having jurisdiction (i.e., provinces and municipalities).

**Net-zero emissions building:** One that avoids or greatly reduces greenhouse gas emissions arising from the building's operations or construction materials. Residual emissions can be offset to achieve net zero.

**Metric normalization:** Adjusting metrics to a common scale or unit, such as building floor area.

**Performance target normalization:** Adjusting the performance targets for a building based on specific factors that may influence its performance, such as weather, occupancy, and high-energy applications.

**Operational emissions:** Those emitted during the building's operations or use.

**Site emissions:** All the energy used directly by the building. Site energy does not account for energy losses incurred during the production, transmission, and delivery of energy.

**Site Energy Use Intensity (site EUI):** A mixture of what is called primary energy (i.e., a raw fuel like natural gas) and secondary energy (i.e., a converted product like electricity or district steam).

**Source Energy Use Intensity (source EUI):** Similar to Site EUI, except secondary energy types are converted into a unit that is comparable to primary energy which considers all transmission, delivery and production losses.

