

ENERGY DATAPALOOZA FACT SHEET

UNLEASHING THE POWER OF OPEN DATA TO ADVANCE OUR ENERGY FUTURE



October 1, 2012

As part of the Energy Data Initiative, the Obama Administration hosted an Energy Datapalooza highlighting private-sector entrepreneurs and innovators that are using freely available data from the government and other sources to build products, services, and apps that advance a secure and clean energy future.

ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Application Programming Interfaces (APIs)

Electricity API: The Energy Information Administration (EIA) announced the development of an API for its series on monthly, quarterly, and annual data for electric generation, consumption, and retail sales.

Fuel Economy API: The Department of Energy (DOE) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) jointly announced the development of a new interface for data from the fueleconomy.gov website. The API will provide access to all of the data currently displayed in the “Find and Compare Cars” interactive tool, which includes model years 1984 through 2013.

Environmental APIs: EPA announced the development of its enhanced Envirofacts API, which will greatly improve the technical community’s degree of access to environmental datasets. EPA also announced it put 40 Energy Star product data sets on Energy.Data.Gov and that it intends to build an API for this important data. EPA is also releasing the beta version of Web services for its Energy Star’s Portfolio Manager tool, which will help building owners more easily benchmark their commercial buildings.

Biomass API: DOE announced the development of an API for biomass data. Specifically, the “U.S. Billion Ton Report” – a landmark study on biomass as a feedstock for bioenergy – will now be more readily available and useful to researchers and software developers.

New Data for Entrepreneurs and Innovators

Energy.Data.Gov: DOE announced that the number of datasets available in Energy.Data.Gov – a central discovery engine for federal government datasets, data visualization tools, mobile apps,

and more – has doubled in less than three months. It now contains more than 900 federal datasets and technologies that support a growing open data ecosystem.

20 new Datasets from DOE: The Energy Department's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) announced that it has released twenty new datasets, including two from each of the diverse portfolio of EERE Programs (i.e. Solar, Wind and Water, Vehicles, Advanced Manufacturing, Biofuels, Buildings, Fuel Cells, Weatherization, Geothermal, and Federal Energy Management).

New Events and Challenges

Vehicles Data Challenge: Improving Safety and Fuel Efficiency through Technology

Innovation: DOE announced an innovation challenge to foster new technologies that can increase fuel efficiency while also addressing distracted driving concerns. The challenge will seek to recognize the best innovative technology solutions that vehicle owners can choose to use with their own private vehicle data. Incentive prizes, such as innovation challenges, are one tool the Federal government is using to tap the top talent and best ideas wherever they lie, sourcing breakthroughs from a broad range of citizen solvers.

SXSW ECO Code-a-thon: DOE announced it will support and participate in the SXSW Eco Code-a-thon, an event where teams of software developers will compete to create new and usable energy tools to help consumer make informed energy choices.

New Green Button Integration

Home Energy Yardstick: EPA announced it will make it easier for consumers to import their actual energy usage data into Home Energy Yardstick, a free tool for consumers that allows consumers to compare their home's energy use to others across the country and see how their home "measures up." Consumers will be able to take their own household energy usage information, obtained from their local utility in the industry-developed Green Button data format, and upload it into the EPA tool to obtain a Yardstick score for their home and get energy efficiency recommendations.

PRIVATE SECTOR COMMITMENTS

Green Button Commitments

New utility commitments expand *Green Button Download My Data* to include nearly 5 million new U.S. households and businesses. Twelve new utilities and energy providers join 23 others that have already agreed to adopt the consensus, industry-developed Green Button data standard. In total, these 35 companies will enable more than 36 million households and businesses to use web and smartphone apps to pick the best rate plan for them; take advantage of customized energy efficiency tips; utilize easy-to-use tools to size and finance rooftop solar panels; and download virtual energy audit software that can cut costs for building owners and help get retrofits started sooner.

The utilities and electricity suppliers making new or expanded commitments are:

- Bangor Hydro Electric Company, serving 117,000 customers in Maine.
- Central Maine Power, serving 620,000 customers in Maine.
- Consolidated Edison, serving over 3.3 million electric customers in New York (Green Button will initially be available to approximately 2,500 large building owners).
- Efficiency Vermont, serving 330,000 customers in Vermont.
- JEA, serving 430,000 customers in Florida.
- Northeast Utilities, serving over 3 million electric and natural gas customers throughout New England under the following regulated utilities: Connecticut Light and Power (CL&P), Yankee Gas, Western Massachusetts Electric Company (WMECo), NSTAR Electric, NSTAR Gas, and Public Service Company of New Hampshire (PSNH).
- Sawnee Electric Membership Corporation (Georgia) and Kootenai Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Idaho), serving 3,000 residential customers.
- The United Illuminating Company, serving 324,000 customers in Connecticut.

New commitments to *Green Button Connect My Data* capabilities: Responding to a call by President Obama to help consumers take better control of their energy bills, utilities in California and the Mid-Atlantic have taken a new step to make it easier for their customers to securely transfer their own energy usage data to authorized third parties, based on affirmative (opt-in) customer consent and control. In total, these commitments will provide more than 11 million customers with an easy and secure way to automatically and routinely participate in energy saving opportunities. Utility vendors Aclara, OPower, and Oracle also announced commitments to provide *Green Button Connect My Data* capabilities to utilities.

New companies commit to use the Green Button standard: Three new companies today announced that they are joining dozens of others that are developing applications or services that use the [Green Button](#) data standard. The companies making new commitments are:

- BuildingIQ
- Calico Energy Services
- iControl Networks

New Consumer Data Protections

Privacy Seal Program: The Future of Privacy Forum (FPF), a Washington based think tank committed to advancing responsible data practices, today announced a first of its kind privacy seal program for companies that use consumer energy information. The seal will be powered by TRUSTe, a data privacy management company. The seal will be available to companies offering home energy management, remote home control or security, smart thermostats and other services that seek to access consumer energy data.

###