



CANNABIS RESOURCE MANAGER: POWERSCORE

You are here

WHAT IS
POWERSCORE?

CANNABIS
RESOURCE
BENCHMARKING

RESOURCE
BENCHMARKING
REQUIREMENTS

CANNABIS
PRODUCTION
BLUEPRINT

POWERSCORE
REPORTING TO
LICENSEES & OCM

MORE
RESOURCES

WHAT IS POWERSCORE?

Developed and operated by non-profit organization [Resource Innovation Institute \(RII\)](#), [PowerScore](#) is an energy, waste and water-reporting and benchmarking data collection platform designed for many forms of controlled environment agriculture (CEA), including cannabis. Licensees authorized to cultivate cannabis by the New York State (NYS) Office of Cannabis Management (the Office) are mandated to engage in resource tracking and the Office has selected PowerScore to meet this mandate. This includes cooperatives, cultivators, microbusinesses, nurseries, Registered Organizations (ROs), Registered Organizations with dispensing (RODs) and Registered Organizations non-dispensing (ROND).

CANNABIS RESOURCE BENCHMARKING

Cannabis production has a reputation for being resource-intensive. The motivation behind resource tracking and reporting requirements in Section 113.26(a) of the [medical cannabis regulations](#) and Sections 123.4(g)(1), 123.4(g)(2) and 125.2(c)(3) of the [adult-use cannabis regulations](#) (all references under Title 9 of the New York Codes, Rules and Regulations) is to gather more information to understand current resource consumption metrics. These metrics can be used to build a benchmark, a key aspect of resource management and environmental protection. Cannabis benchmarking metrics have been limited because of the product's history as a Schedule 1 drug and the differing standards promulgated across the various state-level legalized markets. New York State's resource consumption tracking requirement will identify baseline resource use, establishing the much-needed benchmark for efficiency improvements and uniform standards based on consumption trends.

RESOURCE BENCHMARKING REQUIREMENTS

Using PowerScore to meet the Office's resource tracking and reporting requirements will not come at a cost to the licensee. The date on which licensees must begin using PowerScore will be established in future guidance.

Licensees will enter information from their monthly power and water bill providers, including information about their use of on-site renewable energy sources and their utility services provider in the PowerScore platform. Licensees will also enter information about harvest cycles, yields and waste generation including but not limited to:

- *Production information:* indoor, greenhouse or outdoor production, square footage and number of lights used;
- *Utility:* utility service provider used, whether and from what source operator uses on- or off-site renewables, electricity consumed, monthly peak demand, alternate sources of energy and fossil fuels consumed;
- *Waste generation:* plant waste disposed of per year, waste disposal methods for growing media and other materials and supplies; and
- *Harvest information:* length of cycle per growth phase (i.e. mother, seedling/clone, vegetative, flowering), frequency of harvest and total annual harvest.

A RESOURCE-EFFICIENT CANNABIS PRODUCTION BLUEPRINT

For the Future of New York: By mandating resource tracking for cultivation licensees, the Office positions NYS as a global leader in resource-efficient cannabis production while ensuring the State's industry stays compliant with the [Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act](#) (CLCPA), which sets statewide targets for greenhouse gas emissions reductions. Once benchmarks have been established, the Office can effectively support industry licensees to reach a goal of net zero carbon generation, waste minimization and water protection. The data collected through PowerScore will be used to identify program success and challenges for licensed cannabis cultivation in NYS, ultimately serving as guidance for future policy, education, and funding decisions.

A RESOURCE-EFFICIENT CANNABIS PRODUCTION BLUEPRINT (CONTINUED)

For Licensees: Understanding what level of resource inputs licensees authorized to cultivate are using will help them better understand the relationship between their operating costs and their yield. The first year's data will serve each licensee as their benchmark and in following years, they will be able to use benchmarked data as their efficiency target. By improving resource consumption per yield year-over-year, licensees may have the ability to reduce input costs and operating costs, allowing them to maintain greater profit. Operators that are extremely resource-efficient may also be able to use this information as a tool to earn greater price premiums from consumers who value environmentally friendly production.

POWERSCORE REPORTING TO LICENSEES AND OCM

After the licensee enters consumption and production data, the Office will receive a notice that reporting has been completed. Licensees will receive a Performance Snapshot that includes [a percentile ranking](#) relative to other anonymized operations on production, facility, lighting and HVAC efficiency. Access the [PowerScore Glossary here](#) to learn more. The Performance Snapshot will include but is not limited to the following:

- *Energy usage:* by energy consumed per square foot (kBtu/sqft) and energy consumed per pound of cannabis produced (kBtu/lb);
- *Water usage:* by gallons consumed per square foot (gal/sqft) and gallons consumed per pound of cannabis produced (gal/lb);
- *Emissions:* by emissions associated with your energy source calculated as carbon dioxide equivalent per square foot (CO₂e/sqft) and carbon dioxide equivalent per pound of cannabis produced (CO₂e/lb); and
- *Waste generation:* reported in pounds per square foot (lbs/sqft) and pounds of waste per pound of cannabis produced (lb of waste/lb).

What is aggregated data? Aggregated data is data that has been combined such that no longer represents the individual level. It can also be thought of as a summary of data points. As such, RII may aggregate the licensee's raw data with that of other participant's or other data sources obtained by RII, and RII may use the results of the data aggregation to develop custom reports, forecasts, or other deliverables for any third party, all of which shall involve aggregated data.

Data Ownership and Protection Note: Information submitted to RII through PowerScore by licensees is anonymized to protect confidential operational metrics and although RII does conduct aggregate data analysis and reporting, they will not analyze metrics from one geography unless there are three or more licensees in the area. Raw data submitted by licensees is owned by the licensee and RII will not sell individual farm-level data.

WHY RII'S POWERSCORE VERSUS OTHER VENDORS?

Currently, RII is the sole vendor providing cannabis-specific resource tracking. However, the [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\)](#) manages a similar product, specific to neither cannabis nor CEA, [ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager](#). The purpose of choosing PowerScore over Portfolio Manager is PowerScore's cannabis-specific design and RII's benchmarked data from multiple states. Additionally, RII has contracts and relationships with other NYS agencies, the [United States Department of Energy](#), product manufacturers and utilities, presenting the opportunity for enhanced communication between the Office and such entities. Massachusetts and Mendocino County, California have also mandated PowerScore for cannabis cultivators, and RII works with cultivators in California, Colorado, Illinois, Massachusetts, Michigan, Montana and Vermont.

MORE RESOURCES

All applicants are strongly encouraged to review the [Adult-Use Cannabis Regulations](#) and all [application resources](#) to learn more about how to obtain and operate an adult-use cannabis license in New York State. Please note that this is only the first application window for general adult-use cannabis licensing. Future application windows for licenses such as nursery, delivery, cooperative or collective, and on-site consumption are anticipated. Please email info@ocm.ny.gov if you have any further questions.

