

Commercial Energy Audit Pilot FAQs

What is the Commercial Energy Audit Pilot?

The Commercial Energy Audit Pilot is a free service to provide customers and Trade Allies with more detailed information on current energy use and potential measures to optimize overall energy consumption.

This program is **available April 1st through October 31st, 2026** on a first-come first-served basis. This service is provided at **no cost** as part of Consumers Energy's Business Energy Efficiency Program.

Why is this pilot being offered?

This pilot provides customers with an independent, third-party assessment of energy-saving opportunities. It's designed to increase confidence in projected costs and savings while offering:

- Insight into how energy is currently being used
- Benchmarking against similar facilities
- Identification of available utility incentives
- A clear, actionable plan to improve energy performance

How does this benefit Trade Allies?

This pilot is designed to support Trade Allies by:

- Reinforcing and validating recommended energy efficiency measures
- Addressing customer hesitation through third-party analysis
- Providing detailed financial and performance data to support project decisions
- Improving close rates on energy efficiency projects

Where is the pilot offered?

This pilot is available within Consumers Energy's electric and combination electric/gas service territories.

What types of customers are eligible?

This pilot is available to commercial customers, including:

- Educational facilities
- Restaurants
- Large retail
- Offices
- Warehouses
- Hospitality
- Distribution centers
- Food Service
- Medical Offices and facilities
- Grocery Stores and supercenters

What does the Commercial Energy Audit Pilot include?

- Consumers Energy will first complete a preliminary energy analysis using general site information and energy use data to determine whether a facility is a strong candidate for energy savings.
- If the site meets the program criteria, a complimentary, detailed on-site ASHRAE Level II energy audit will then be conducted to identify specific energy-saving opportunities.

What is included in the preliminary energy analysis?

The preliminary energy analysis provides:

- An estimate of total potential energy savings
- Benchmarking against similar facilities
- An estimated breakdown of energy use
- A list of potential energy-saving measures

What is an ASHRAE Level II energy audit?

An ASHRAE Level II audit is a detailed, on-site evaluation of a facility's energy use. It includes:

- Facility and systems overview
- Analysis of historical energy use
- Identification of Energy Conservation Measures (ECMs)
- Estimated costs, savings, and payback for recommended improvements
- Energy benchmarking against similar buildings

What are the eligibility criteria for the ASHRAE Level II audit?

To qualify for the on-site audit, facilities must:

- Be a Consumers Energy electric customer
- Be at least 10 years old
- Be a minimum of 10,000 square feet

How many ASHRAE Level II audits are available?

Up to 30 audits will be completed during the pilot, based on Trade Ally nominations and customer interest. In addition, there's a strong preference for facilities where the preliminary analysis indicates at least **20% or \$20,000 in potential energy savings**.