

ENERGY STAR EXTENDS ITS REACH TO ROOF PRODUCTS

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) latest initiative certifies energy efficient roof products with the ENERGY STAR® label.

The ENERGY STAR Roof Products Program — to be launched at the National Roofing Contractors Association convention in February — aims to improve energy efficiency by helping roofing specifiers make energy-efficient product selections.

Under the program, participating roof product manufacturers will submit their products to EPA for testing. Products



that meet or exceed the program's criteria will receive ENERGY STAR labels, certifying that they meet EPA's energy-efficiency standards. Separate criteria have been developed for evaluating the products based on whether they will be applied to low-slope or steep-slope roofs.

"The program looks at roof products' energy efficiency in terms of solar reflectance," says Rachel Schmeltz, program manager for the Roof Products Program. Highly reflective products deflect more heat away from a building and cut the costs and amount of energy required to maintain comfort levels inside.

Along with reducing facilities' energy costs, EPA hopes its ENERGY STAR-labeled roof products will also play a role in the reduction of the urban "heat island" effect. Heat islands, zones where temperatures are up to eight degrees warmer than surrounding areas, contribute to air quality problems in cities.

Twenty-one roof-product manufacturers have already signed on as ENERGY STAR Partners. EPA hopes to bring still more Partners on board before the program's Jan. 7 eligibility deadline.

Commercial and residential roofing products are eligible to receive labels, says Schmeltz.

Facility executives can learn more about the ENERGY STAR Roof Products Program by calling 1-888-STAR-YES or by visiting the ENERGY STAR website at www.energystar.gov.