

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460



**OFFICE OF  
AIR AND RADIATION**

February 17, 2005

Dear Commercial Dishwasher Manufacturer or Other Interested Party:

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is interested in expanding ENERGY STAR® to include commercial dishwashers as a new product category. The purpose of this letter is to introduce you to ENERGY STAR and our process for developing program specifications, and solicit your interest in participating in the specification development process for commercial dishwashers.

ENERGY STAR is a voluntary partnership between government, businesses, and purchasers designed to encourage the manufacture, purchase, and use of efficient products. Energy efficiency – delivering equal (or better) performance for less energy – helps protect the environment. The less energy that is used, the less energy we need to generate at power plants, which reduces greenhouse gas emissions and improves the quality of our air. Commercial and household products that earn the ENERGY STAR prevent greenhouse gas emissions by meeting strict energy efficiency guidelines. Manufacturers that design and qualify their products according to the ENERGY STAR specification are able to use the label as a marketing tool to highlight these products for their customers. To date:

- over 1,400 manufacturers are partnering with ENERGY STAR
- more than 28,000 product models carry the ENERGY STAR mark across over 40 product categories
- 64% of Americans recognize the ENERGY STAR mark
- American consumers have purchased more than 1 billion ENERGY STAR qualified products

Energy efficiency helps the economy too, by saving consumers and businesses billions of dollars in energy costs. In 2003 alone, Americans – with the help of ENERGY STAR – saved 8 billion dollars on their energy bills, saved enough energy to power 20 million homes and reduced greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to taking 18 million cars off the road. For more information about ENERGY STAR, please visit our Web site at [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov).

The primary objective of ENERGY STAR is to make it easy for buyers to identify the most energy-efficient products in the marketplace by differentiating them with the ENERGY STAR mark. As a voluntary, market-based program, it is not EPA's intention to design a specification that will allow every model to qualify. When EPA sets a specification, it strives to recognize the top energy performers in the market, which offer attractive savings to the buyer at that time. For products that do not initially meet the specification, it is EPA's hope that manufacturers will redesign for efficiency over time, thus leading to more energy-efficient product choices.

In addition, commercial dishwashers are of interest to EPA because energy efficient models also use water more efficiently. Efficient water use conserves existing supplies of a precious resource, reduces the burden on the nation's water and wastewater facilities as well as households and other consumers, and helps protect the environment.

Initial research has shown that there are existing technologies available in the commercial dishwasher market today that offer significant energy and water savings. Commercial dishwashers would join pre-rinse spray valves as the latest additions to ENERGY STAR's suite of commercial foodservice specifications, which also includes fryers, hot food holding cabinets, steam cookers, and solid door refrigerators and freezers.

Over the next few months EPA will be conducting further market and engineering research to determine whether or not to introduce ENERGY STAR to the commercial dishwasher market. As part of this research we may be contacting you for your input. Then, based on this research, EPA will decide whether or not to move forward with a draft specification, which would present the minimum performance, testing, and labeling requirements that models would need to meet to earn the ENERGY STAR. EPA would then release the draft specification for a 30-day comment period and hold an industry meeting, as necessary, to discuss feedback and next steps toward finalizing the specification.

The exchange of ideas and information between EPA, industry, and other interested parties is critical to the success of ENERGY STAR. We hope you will actively participate in the ENERGY STAR specification development process. For more information about this process, please visit our Web site at [www.energystar.gov/productdevelopment](http://www.energystar.gov/productdevelopment) or contact me directly at 202-343-9124 or [schmeltz.rachel@epa.gov](mailto:schmeltz.rachel@epa.gov). I look forward to working with you during the next several months.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rachel Schmeltz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the letter "z".

Rachel Schmeltz  
ENERGY STAR Program Manager