CHANGE FOR THE BETTER WITH ENERGY STAR

Products that earn the ENERGY STAR prevent greenhouse gas emissions by meeting strict energy efficiency guidelines set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy.
www.energystar.gov

ENERGY STAR® Qualified Water Coolers

UMaine Saves with Energy-Efficient Bottled Water Coolers

In the lore of office culture, bottled water coolers are often the prime gathering spots where employees share workplace gossip and catch up on pop culture. But did you know that they may also be a source of untapped energy and money savings for your organization? The University of Maine (UMaine) does.

> "I received information on ENERGY STAR qualified products from a vendor, and awarded the contract based on that information."
>
> —**Anne-Marie Nadeau**
> UMaine Purchasing Agent

In the fall of 2002, UMaine solicited bids for vendors to supply water coolers for its campus. In the solicitation, UMaine's Purchasing Agent, Anne-Marie Nadeau, stated a preference for energy-efficient ENERGY STAR qualified units. "Whenever I prepare a request for bid for products that use electricity, I go to the ENERGY STAR Web site to see if I can take my bids one step further from merely asking for ENERGY STAR product information to stating it's a preference for us," says Ms. Nadeau.

After receiving a number of bids from bottled water distributors, UMaine selected the distributor offering ENERGY STAR qualified water coolers. "We received five bids and [contract winner] Mount Desert was the only vendor to provide ENERGY STAR qualified bottled water coolers," explains Ms. Nadeau. "It was a determining factor for us in using them." She had calculated that the energy savings the university would gain by using qualified models would far surpass any premium per bottle they would pay by using Mount Desert Spring Water.

ENERGY STAR qualified water coolers need only about half of the energy of conventional units to supply hot and cold water. With ENERGY STAR qualified hot and cold water coolers, an organization can save as much as $47 per year per unit on their annual energy bills. For "cook and cold" qualified models, savings are up to $6 per year on each unit.

Water coolers that have earned the ENERGY STAR not only help organizations reduce their energy bills, but also can help make a difference for the environment. This is because products that earn the ENERGY STAR prevent greenhouse gas emissions by meeting strict energy efficiency guidelines set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy.

EPA United States Environmental Protection Agency

UMaine's purchasing policy requires that all bids ask for information on the availability of ENERGY STAR qualified products, and show a preference for them if available. Purchasing policies are increasingly calling for ENERGY STAR qualified products to be included in purchases and requests for bids.

Ms. Nadeau visited www.energystar.gov to research available qualified water coolers models, look up product benefits and features, and learn about the products' energy and dollar savings. "Preparing the bid for bottled water coolers was an exciting process for me," she states. "I received information on ENERGY STAR qualified products from a vendor, and awarded the contract based on that information."

Since the original award, UMaine has increased the number of water coolers it contracts from Mount Desert Spring Water to more than 100 units that include both hot and cold, and cold only models. Current savings from using ENERGY STAR qualified models for UMaine are estimated to be close to $3,000 per year.

For more information, visit the ENERGY STAR Web site at www.energystar.gov/purchasing, or contact David Shiller, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, at (202) 343-9397, Shiller.David@epa.gov.

ENERGY STAR Qualified Water Coolers - Energy and Environmental Savings

Type	Typical ENERGY STAR Savings (kWh/yr)	Average U.S. Savings ($/year)	Average New York State Savings ($/year)	CO_2 Emissions Reduction (lbs/year)
Hot & Cold	361	$29	$47	520
Cold Only / Cook & Cold	47	$4	$6	70

[1] Source: U.S. EPA Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP)

[2] Using average U.S. commercial electrical rate of 8.1 cents per kWh. (Source: EIA Table 5.6.B. Average Retail Price of Electricity to Ultimate Customers by Sector, by State, Year-to-Date through December 2003 and 2002 (Cents per kilowatthour).)

[3] Using average New York State commercial electrical rate of 13.1 cents per kwh. (Source: EIA Table 5.6.B. Average Retail Price of Electricity to Ultimate Customers by Sector, by State, Year-to-Date through December 2003 and 2002 (Cents per kilowatthour).)

[4] Using average U.S. CO_2 (lbs) per kWh of 1.43. (Source: U.S. EPA ENERGY STAR)