



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

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

February 1, 2008

Dear ENERGY STAR[®] Programmable Thermostat partner

ENERGY STAR has grown tremendously in the past 13 years when this specification was first launched. Today, the ENERGY STAR label can be found on more than 50 different kinds of products as well as new homes and buildings. Products that have earned the ENERGY STAR designation prevent greenhouse gas emissions by meeting strict energy-efficiency specifications set by the government. In 2006 alone, ENERGY STAR helped Americans save over \$14 billion on their energy bills while doing their part to protect our environment by reducing greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to those of 25 million vehicles. With more than 70% consumer recognition for the label, ENERGY STAR remains the most recognized and trusted US brand when it comes to energy efficiency.

We thank you for your active participation in this program. With this letter, we are finalizing a few changes to the program that will strengthen the value of ENERGY STAR to you and your customers and outlining what you need to do to take advantage of these changes.

As detailed in our October 25, 2007 letter, EPA proposed a few changes to the program requirements for Programmable Thermostats, specifically with regards to the Partner Commitments. We received some feedback and have now finalized the changes. The feedback and response to comments documents are available on the ENERGY STAR programmable thermostat specification development web site at http://energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=revisions.thermostats_spec. The changes:

1. Require all ENERGY STAR programmable thermostat partners to re-commit to the program under the revised Version 1.2 ENERGY STAR specification for programmable thermostats, which requires participation in a joint industry/government consumer education campaign. Partners who originally signed up under the old MOU will need to re-sign up under the umbrella Partnership Agreement form.
2. Establish a date by which the current technical specification will be sunset or revised. We will maintain the current ENERGY STAR performance specification for programmable thermostats until 12/31/09, during which time we commit to work with industry in pursuing further collaborations to revise it.

We believe these new changes will help improve the effectiveness of the ENERGY STAR label for programmable thermostats.

Currently we have partners signed up under both the old MOU as well as the existing Partnership Agreement. Over the past 7 years, we have been phasing in the standardized Partnership Agreement across all products as specifications are revised. There are three key partnership commitments that are now standard for every product category:

- Annual submission of up-to-date product lists of ENERGY STAR qualified product models.
- Clear display of the ENERGY STAR label in product literature, on product packaging, on the top/front of the product, and on the manufacturer's Web site where information about ENERGY STAR qualified models is displayed.
- Annual submission of unit shipment data or other market indicators to assist us in determining the market penetration of ENERGY STAR labeled products. (Note: The first annual submission of qualified programmable thermostats shipment data will be for calendar year 2008 and will be due March 31, 2009.)

We believe these commitments are essential to the continued growth and success of the ENERGY STAR program.

The new Partnership Agreement needs to be signed only once. After that, you can update or expand your participation into other areas by completing the ENERGY STAR Commitment Form (attached). If your organization has previously signed a Partnership Agreement, you need only complete and submit a Commitment Form to acknowledge the revised Partner commitments. I have also enclosed a sample copy of the Partnership Agreement for your review. By **February 29, 2008**, please provide ENERGY STAR with either the Partnership Agreement or Commitment Form, depending on how and when you originally signed on as a Partner. Any immediate questions can be addressed to Christopher Kent at (202) 343-9046 or email at kent.christopher@epa.gov.

We look forward to your ongoing participation with the ENERGY STAR program. We also encourage your active participation during the next 16 months in developing a new programmable thermostat specification that promotes more effective use of the energy savings features as well as delivers meaningful differentiation between ENERGY STAR qualified and standard programmable thermostats.

Thank you for your continued support of ENERGY STAR.

Respectfully,



Christopher Kent
ENERGY STAR Product Manager for Programmable Thermostats