



ENERGY STAR® Program Requirements for Residential Air Source Heat Pumps (ASHPs) and Central Air Conditioners

DRAFT 1 Partner Commitments

Commitments

The following are the terms of the ENERGY STAR Partnership Agreement as it pertains to the ENERGY STAR qualified ASHP and central air conditioner systems. The ENERGY STAR Partner must adhere to the following program requirements:

- develop and implement a verification program using the current ENERGY STAR Eligibility Criteria, defining the performance and installation criteria that must be met and verified in order to use the ENERGY STAR certification mark on installed ASHP and central air conditioner systems. EPA may, at its discretion, conduct tests on systems that are reported as ENERGY STAR qualified;

Note: For this specification, the term “Partner” may refer to any number of entities. However, to sign an ENERGY STAR Partnership Agreement for ASHPs and central air conditioners, the entity must have an EPA-approved program that includes a protocol for verifying that systems have been installed to meet manufacturer’s specifications in terms of air flow and refrigerant charge and that the system has been sized according to Manual J® (or equivalent). Programs may also include additional criteria and requirements such as NATE certification of technicians, duct sealing and repair, insulation and air sealing, continued technician training, and others. In lieu of verifying each individual installed system, Partner may utilize an EPA-approved reporting and sampling protocol.

- verify and report to EPA the installation of at least one ENERGY STAR qualified ASHP or central air conditioner system within one year of activating the ASHP and central air conditioner portion of the agreement;

Note: According to this model, after January 1, 2007, manufacturers will no longer be able to label equipment as it is shipped from the factory with the ENERGY STAR certification mark. Nor will manufacturers be allowed to use the ENERGY STAR logo on product literature that is distributed nationwide. Instead, any “Partner” (see note box below) may label installed systems and/or award homeowners with a certificate of qualification for their system once verified according to an EPA approved verification program.

As equipment criteria alone will no longer qualify a model combination for ENERGY STAR, manufacturers will no longer be required to submit qualifying product information to EPA. Instead, Partners, as defined above, will be asked to use the CEE Directory of ARI Verified Equipment for a list of equipment that, when installed and verified to the criteria outlined in the Eligibility Criteria, may qualify for ENERGY STAR.

It is important to note that at no time will technicians be able to label an HVAC installation as ENERGY STAR without involvement of a Third Party. Instead, technicians should submit installation data to a Third Party running an installation verification program (i.e. an ENERGY STAR Partner) and that Third Party may award a certificate to the homeowner stating that the system as installed is ENERGY STAR qualified.

- submit to EPA a program plan that addresses verification of installed ASHP and central air conditioner systems. This plan must be reviewed and approved by EPA before Partner may begin

to use the ENERGY STAR name or logo in association with their program and any resulting installations;

Note: EPA will work with organizations such as the Consortium for Energy Efficiency (CEE), the Air Conditioning Contractors of America (ACCA) and the Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Institute (ARI) to make available sample program plans that may be used as models by Partners.

- provide to EPA, on an annual basis, the total number of ENERGY STAR qualified ASHPs and central air conditioner systems installed (in units by model) or an equivalent measurement as agreed to in advance by EPA and Partner; and

Note: EPA is willing to work through a third party, such as CEE, ARI, or ACCA to obtain data on the number of ASHP and central air conditioner systems installed according to the ENERGY STAR criteria. This data may be masked and provided in an aggregate form so as not to be able to identify specific Partner data. This data is being collected as a tool to gauge the penetration of ENERGY STAR qualified systems in the marketplace and to determine if changes to the program would yield increased penetration of efficient products.

- notify EPA of a change in the designated responsible party or contacts for ASHPs and central air conditioners within 30 days.

Optional Commitments

The following are additional terms that the ENERGY STAR Partner may choose to adhere to in implementing their verification program:

- affix an ENERGY STAR label to all ASHP and central air conditioners that meet the ENERGY STAR equipment criteria and have been verified as meeting the ENERGY STAR installation criteria. In lieu of actual labeling, Partner may produce certificates showing the ENERGY STAR logo that are awarded to purchasers of ENERGY STAR qualified equipment, once its proper installation has been verified. In using the ENERGY STAR label, Partners must comply with current ENERGY STAR Identity Guidelines, describing how the ENERGY STAR name and mark may be used. Partner is responsible for adhering to these guidelines and for ensuring that its authorized representatives, such as advertising agencies, dealers, distributors, and subcontractors, also comply.

Performance for Special Distinction

In order to receive additional recognition and/or support from EPA for its efforts within the Partnership, the ENERGY STAR Partner may consider the following voluntary measures and should keep EPA informed on the progress of these efforts:

- consider energy efficiency improvements in company facilities and pursue the ENERGY STAR label for buildings;
- purchase ENERGY STAR qualified products. Revise the company purchasing or procurement specifications to include ENERGY STAR. Provide procurement officials' contact information to EPA for periodic updates and coordination. Circulate general ENERGY STAR qualified product information to employees for use when purchasing products for their homes;
- ensure the power management feature is enabled on all ENERGY STAR qualified monitors in use in company facilities, particularly upon installation and after service is performed;
- provide general information about the ENERGY STAR program to employees whose jobs are relevant to the development, marketing, sales, and service of current ENERGY STAR qualified product models;

- feature the ENERGY STAR mark on Partner Web site and in other promotional materials. If information concerning ENERGY STAR is provided on the Partner Web site as specified by the ENERGY STAR Web Linking Policy (this document can be found in the Partner Resources section on the ENERGY STAR Web site at www.energystar.gov), EPA may provide links where appropriate to the Partner Web site;
- provide a simple plan to EPA outlining specific measures Partner plans to undertake beyond the program requirements listed above. By doing so, EPA may be able to coordinate, communicate, and/or promote Partner's activities, provide an EPA representative, or include news about the event in the ENERGY STAR newsletter, on the ENERGY STAR Web pages, etc. The plan may be as simple as providing a list of planned activities or planned milestones that Partner would like EPA to be aware of. For example, activities may include: (1) increase the availability of ENERGY STAR qualified products by converting the entire product line within two years to meet ENERGY STAR guidelines; (2) demonstrate the economic and environmental benefits of energy efficiency through special in-store displays twice a year; (3) provide information to users (via the Web site and user's manual) about energy-saving features and operating characteristics of ENERGY STAR qualified products, and (4) build awareness of the ENERGY STAR Partnership and brand identity by collaborating with EPA on one print advertorial and one live press event;
- provide quarterly, written updates to EPA as to the efforts undertaken by Partner to increase availability of ENERGY STAR qualified products, and to promote awareness of ENERGY STAR and its message.