

ENERGY STAR® EPA's Premier Energy Efficiency Program

Why the Energy Star Program Is Important

Since 1992, Americans purchasing everything from computers to washing machines to homes have come to rely on Energy Star to help them save more than \$450 billion and over 3.5 trillion kilowatt-hours of electricity by buying the most efficient products on the market. EPA's Energy Star is a voluntary labeling program that has been embraced by consumers and manufacturers and is now used internationally. Today, Energy Star helps identify not only efficient consumer products, but also efficient commercial and residential buildings and industrial plants. Successive administrations, Republican and Democratic, have supported and expanded the program.

How the Program Works

Products earn the Energy Star label when they meet energy efficiency requirements that are described in Energy Star product specifications. Builders and developers can use EPA-created tools to understand how much energy they are using and how they can improve building efficiency. The Energy Star program makes it easy for consumers to identify and purchase energy-efficient products and homes that offer savings on energy bills without sacrificing performance, features and comfort.

- *Portfolio Manager* is an [online tool](#) to measure and track energy, water, waste and greenhouse gas emissions for a wide variety of commercial buildings, schools, stadiums, houses of worship and other buildings. It is used to compare building performance and, during the design phase for commercial buildings, can compare a new building's estimated energy consumption with similar existing buildings nationwide. *Portfolio Manager* also collects information to meet the Energy Star certification process. Forty percent of commercial building spaces in the U.S. have used this tool.
- *Energy Star Home Energy Advisor* is another [online tool](#) that helps homeowners create a profile of their homes' energy efficiency features and a prioritized list of energy saving recommendations customized to their homes. This information can be updated and tracked.

Consequences if the Program Is Eliminated or Inadequately Funded

- American consumers would lose a fully up-to-date and reliable source of information to help them identify energy-efficient products that conserve energy and save them money.
- People and companies that care about climate change and the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions would lose an easy way to find products that do just that.
- Innovation would suffer. Energy Star has over 16,000 partners – manufacturers, building owners, homebuilders among them – who have invested in energy efficiency and demonstrated leadership in promoting its importance.
- This important and trusted brand is recognized by over 90% of the American public. The integrity of the program would be diminished if it were not backed up by EPA assurances that Energy Star products are certified to meet standards.

Demonstrated Successes

- Continuous updating of Energy Star standards has spurred innovation as companies strive to be leaders in energy efficiency. Today, an Energy Star clothes washer uses about 70% less energy and 75% less water than a standard washer used 20 years ago.
- Energy Star certified homes are at least 10% more efficient than homes built to code. With their additional energy saving features, energy-efficient homes perform 20% better on average, without sacrificing comfort.
- Energy Star certified buildings use 35% less energy than typical buildings without losses in performance and comfort. More efficient buildings have higher occupancy rates and are worth more than typical buildings. Tenants want real estate with lower utility bills and, increasingly, more organizations are requiring environmentally friendly building spaces. Thirty-five thousand buildings that consistently used the Energy Star *Portfolio Manager* measurement tool from 2008 to 2011 saved an average of 7% in energy costs and reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 6%.
- Energy savings and reductions in greenhouse gas emissions go hand-in-hand. American families and businesses have avoided 2.8 billion metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions since the inception of Energy Star in 1992. For every metric ton of greenhouse gas emissions reduced through the program, Americans saved \$145 on their energy bills.
- In 2016, Americans purchased over 300 million Energy Star certified products, including everything from air conditioners to TVs to smart thermostats, with a market value of more than \$100 billion. Over 5.8 billion Energy Star products have been bought over the life of the program.
- Over 1.9 million new homes and 27,000 commercial buildings have earned Energy Star certifications. The *Portfolio Manager* has been used to check the performance of 450,000 commercial buildings.
- Energy Star is now an international brand. EPA has entered into agreements with the European Union, Canada, Japan and other key foreign governments to promote specific Energy Star qualified products in their markets. These partnerships help businesses and make participation and international marketing easier by unifying voluntary energy efficiency labeling across international borders.
- The Energy Star program also works closely with EPA's WaterSense program, a voluntary labeling program for water-efficient products and a resource for saving water.

Funding for Energy STAR®

FY2016 Baseline Budget: \$55 million

FY2018 President's Budget Proposal: \$0

FY2019 President's Budget Proposal: \$46 million

To be replaced by user-fee collection, appropriation only to ensure "continuous operation" through transition

FY2020 President's Budget Proposal: \$0

Replaced with user-fee collection