

## **Budget Cuts Would Decimate EPA's Energy Star - An Energy Efficiency Program That Has Saved Consumers and Businesses \$430 Billion in Energy Costs**

Since 1992, Americans purchasing everything from computers to washing machines to homes have come to rely on Energy Star to help them save \$430 billion on their energy costs 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.

### **Consumers lose if Trump-Pruitt takes a hatchet to the Energy Star Program**

- American consumers lose a fully up-to-date and reliable source of information to help them identify energy efficient products – and save energy and money.
- People and companies who care about cutting back greenhouse gas emissions lose an easy way to find products that do just that.
- Innovation suffers - Energy Star has systematically built up over 16,000 partners – manufacturers, building owners, homebuilders among them -- who have invested in energy efficiency and been leaders in their fields.
- An important and trusted brand, [Energy Star label](#), recognized by over 90% of the American public, is diminished when its integrity – backed up by EPA assurance that products meet standards, technical information and online tools for measuring energy efficiency – is lost.

### **How does the program work?**

Products can 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 others. 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.

### **Success Stories of the Energy Star Program**

- 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.

- 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.
- The new rigorous requirements for Energy Star homes in 2012 required homes to be 15% more efficient than previously labeled Energy Star homes. With their additional energy savings features, these energy efficient homes perform 30% better than typical new homes, without sacrificing comfort.
- Energy Star 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 saved 4.6 trillion kilowatt hours and 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 2015, Americans purchased over 300 million Energy Star certified products including everything from air conditioners to TVs to smart thermostats. Over 5.5 billion Energy Star products have been bought over the life of the program.
- Over 1.6 million new homes and 27,000 commercial buildings have earned Energy Star certifications and the *Portfolio Manager* has been used to check the performance of 450,000 commercial buildings.
- The Energy Star Program also works closely with EPA's WaterSense Program, another voluntary labeling program for water efficient products and a resource for saving water.

#### **Baseline Budget FY 2016**

Approximately \$55 million, 80 FTE (Staff)

#### **For Further information**

Visit our website: [www.environmentalprotectionnetwork.org](http://www.environmentalprotectionnetwork.org)

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