



News to Know

2000 Was a Banner Year for ENERGY STAR Labeled Homes

A record 13,700 homes were certified with the ENERGY STAR label in the year 2000. This is a testimonial to the fact that ENERGY STAR is a growing and valued brand in the marketplace.

New ENERGY STAR Logos

Due to the phenomenal growth throughout ENERGY STAR and the desire to build brand awareness, the program has consolidated the number of logos that can be legally used. Our aim is to have partners use the brand properly and consistently so that consumers come to recognize ENERGY STAR and ask for it on their homes and products. We believe these new logos will help all of us achieve this shared goal. For more information or to download the new logos, please visit www.energystar.gov.

New Homes Web Site

The Homes Web site has been redesigned to be more user friendly and to provide a greater level of customer service. This includes the usual tools for downloading Partnership Agreements to join ENERGY STAR. The new Web site also features logos you can download, access to online marketing and sales support materials, and additional program tools and information such as improving existing homes to make them more energy-efficient.



Program Developments

RESNET Conference

RESNET (Residential Energy Services Network) held its annual conference on February 26–28, 2001 at the Florida Solar Energy Center in Cocoa, Florida. Representatives for ENERGY STAR's Labeled Homes Program discussed the launch of the Home Improvement Toolbox, a suite of web-based tools and energy upgrades to consider when improving a home.

Sampling Protocol Evaluation Results

EPA recently completed an evaluation of its sampling protocol. It was determined that the protocol successfully assures homes meeting ENERGY STAR guidelines, i.e., all homes in the sample batch, when individually rated, received a HERS score of an 86 or above. Details of the findings were presented at the RESNET conference. More information on the sampling protocol can be found on the Policies Page of the ENERGY STAR for Homes Web site.

New ENERGY STAR Home Label and Reporting Procedures

2001 brings you a new way to identify ENERGY STAR labeled home as well as an updated way to report labeled homes to EPA. EPA plans to introduce and supply new sticker labels to rating providers by early this Spring. These stickers will replace the certificate as the primary means for labeling homes. However, certificates will continue to be available and raters will have the option of printing their own certificates.

The screenshot shows the EPA website for ENERGY STAR Labeled Homes. At the top, it features the EPA logo and the tagline 'Money Isn't All You're Saving'. The main navigation bar includes links for 'About', 'Find Products', 'Find Labeled Homes', 'Find Labeled Buildings', and 'News'. The central content area is titled 'ENERGY STAR® For New Homes' and includes sub-sections: 'What Are ENERGY STAR Labeled New Homes?' (30% more energy-efficient), 'How ENERGY STAR Can Help Your Business' (increased profits), and 'Find a Builder, Lender, Rater, or Utility Program'. A sidebar on the left provides navigation for 'for new homes' with links to 'Main Page for New Homes', 'What are ENERGY STAR Labeled New Homes?', 'How ENERGY STAR Can Help Your Business', 'How to Participate', 'Resources', 'News/Faq/Policies', 'Other ENERGY STAR Labeled Products', and 'ENERGY STAR for Homebuyers'. At the bottom, there are search and contact options, including a 'Request Certificate' button and a 'Search' button.

Program Developments

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Additionally, EPA no longer requires rating providers to submit detailed information about each labeled home. The new reporting procedure consists only of a quarterly email submission stating the number of homes rated, their builders, and the verification method used. This quarterly email will also give providers an opportunity to request additional sticker labels. More information about the sticker and streamlined reporting procedures will be coming in the following weeks.

New ENERGY STAR Home Improvement Toolbox

EPA is proud to announce the launch of a new collection of home energy tools for homeowners that can help them save energy and money on their utility bills while protecting the environment. Using the various tools, homeowners can now identify opportunities for improving the energy efficiency of their homes when performing repair, remodeling, or renovation projects. The ENERGY STAR Home Improvement Toolbox contains a suite of assessment tools, retail promotions,

ENERGY STAR labeled systems, and financing options. With the web-based "Home Improvement Tool", they can also discover the top five most cost-effective improvements for their homes. Both assessment tools are available online at www.energystar.gov.

Homes Partners With Phoenix Builder Magazine

Builder Profiles, Inc. has created publications for homebuilders, general contractors, and developers of master-planned communities throughout the United States for the past 12 years. This spring, Builder Profiles, Inc. will produce a special ENERGY STAR publication featuring ten ENERGY STAR builders in the Phoenix, Arizona area. The publication will be distributed prior to and during a 'Showcase of Arizona ENERGY STAR Labeled Homes' slated for April 21, 2001. The showcase is being presented by EPA through their ENERGY STAR program along with Southwest Gas and D.R. Wastchak, L.L.C. For further information please contact John Livingstone, Publisher, Builder Profiles, Inc. at 877-749-7763 or email publisher@builderprofiles.com.

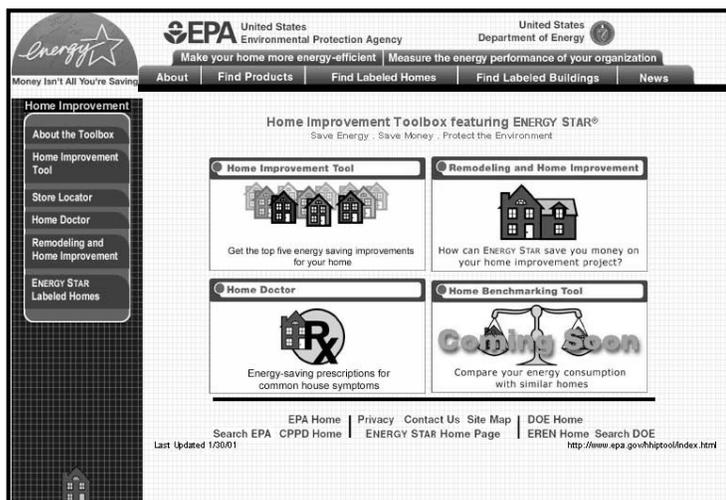
2000 Builder of the Year Award Winners

EPA is honored to bestow the following awards to four outstanding builders who have demonstrated exceptional dedication to the ENERGY STAR program over the past year.

- Small Home Builder of the Year—Atlantic Design and Construction, Gainesville, Florida
- Medium Home Builder of the Year—Barry Andrews Homes, Bel Air, Maryland
- Large Home Builder of the Year—Beazer Homes, Tempe, Arizona
- Systems Builder of the Year—Tierra Concrete Homes, Pueblo, Colorado

New Partnership Agreement

In conjunction with the launch of the updated ENERGY STAR Web site, EPA has also introduced updated partnership agreements, formerly known as MOUs, **Partnership Agreements** have been established for future ENERGY STAR labeled homes partners. In the new format, builders and raters will sign a common agreement, while lenders and utilities will sign a standardized ENERGY STAR partnership agreement and commitment form. Others who simply want to promote ENERGY STAR Labeled Homes in conjunction with their business no longer need to sign a partnership agreement but are free to use the new linkage phrase logo. It is not necessary for current partners to resubmit any of these documents, as they outline the same information as the former MOUs. However, if you would like to view the new partnership agreements, they are available for review on the new web site, in the 'How to Participate' section.



Home Improvement Toolbox

To update or cancel your subscription to this newsletter, please call or email Tricia McGoldrick at 202.862.1224 or triciamcgoldrick@icfconsulting.com

For More Information...

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