

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



OFFICE OF  
AIR AND RADIATION

November 20, 2007

Dear Griddle Manufacturer or Other Interested Party:

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is interested in expanding ENERGY STAR<sup>®</sup> to include griddles as a new product category. The purpose of this letter is to introduce you to ENERGY STAR and our process for developing program specifications, and solicit your interest in participating in the specification development process for griddles.

ENERGY STAR is a voluntary partnership between government, businesses, and purchasers designed to encourage the manufacture, purchase, and use of efficient products. Energy efficiency – delivering equal (or better) performance for less energy – helps protect the environment. The less energy that is used, the less energy we need to generate at power plants, which reduces greenhouse gas emissions and improves the quality of our air. Commercial and household products that earn the ENERGY STAR prevent greenhouse gas emissions by meeting strict energy efficiency guidelines. Manufacturers that design and qualify their products according to the ENERGY STAR specification are able to use the label as a marketing tool to highlight these products for their customers. To date:

- Over 1,700 manufacturers are partnering with ENERGY STAR
- More than 40,000 product models carry the ENERGY STAR label across more than 50 product categories
- More than 65% of Americans recognize the ENERGY STAR label
- American consumers have purchased more than 2 billion ENERGY STAR qualified products

Energy efficiency helps the economy too, by saving consumers and businesses billions of dollars in energy costs. In 2006 alone, Americans – with the help of ENERGY STAR – saved 170 billion kilowatt hours (kWh) or 5% of total 2006 electricity demand. This saved consumers \$14 billion on their energy bills, and prevented greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to the annual emissions of 25 million vehicles. For more information about ENERGY STAR, please visit our Web site at [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov).

The primary objective of ENERGY STAR is to make it easy for buyers to identify the most energy-efficient products in the marketplace by differentiating them with the ENERGY STAR mark. As a voluntary, market-based program, it is not EPA's intention to design a specification that will allow every model to qualify. When EPA sets a specification, it strives to recognize the top energy performers in the market, which offer attractive savings to the buyer at that time. For

products that do not initially meet the specification, it is EPA's hope that manufacturers will redesign for efficiency over time, thus leading to more energy-efficient product choices.

Initial research has shown that there are existing technologies available in the griddle market today that offer significant energy savings. Griddles would be the latest addition to ENERGY STAR's suite of commercial foodservice specifications, which also includes fryers, hot food holding cabinets, steam cookers, solid door refrigerators and freezers, commercial dishwashers, and ice machines.

Over the next few months EPA will work with griddle manufacturers and other interested parties to: (1) identify and define the type of equipment to be covered by ENERGY STAR; (2) collect, review, and analyze energy efficiency performance data; and (3) propose minimum efficiency and testing requirements in a Draft 1 specification for industry review and comment. Stakeholders will be given approximately 30 days to comment on the Draft 1 specification and subsequent versions may be developed, as needed, prior to finalization. During the specification development process EPA may hold a stakeholder meeting to discuss industry feedback and review proposed specification requirements.

The exchange of ideas and information between EPA, industry, and other interested parties is critical to the success of ENERGY STAR. We hope you will actively participate in the ENERGY STAR specification development process. For more information about this process, please visit our Web site at [www.energystar.gov/productdevelopment](http://www.energystar.gov/productdevelopment) or contact me directly at 202-343-9124 or [schmeltz.rachel@epa.gov](mailto:schmeltz.rachel@epa.gov). I look forward to working with you over the next several months.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rachel Schmeltz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Rachel Schmeltz  
ENERGY STAR Program Manager