

Responses to Comments on ENERGY STAR® Most Efficient 2013 Proposed Recognition Criteria

Electronics	
Stakeholder Comments Summary	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Response
<p>One stakeholder expressed strong support for the addition of computer monitors to the Most Efficient program given the fast pace of change in the market for computer monitors and the availability of products that greatly exceed the regular ENERGY STAR criteria.</p>	<p>EPA will include computer monitors to the suite of products eligible for recognition as ENERGY STAR Most Efficient 2013.</p>
<p>One stakeholder and several energy efficiency program sponsors expressed support for the maximum television on mode power levels (Pmax) stating that the proposed 2013 levels are sufficiently stringent to distinguish the most efficient models available on the market today for a wide variety of screen sizes. Another stakeholder commented that while the proposed television criteria captures the top 5% of ENERGY STAR qualified models, it is skewed in favor of smaller size TVs with under 35 inch TVs comprising 61% of total eligible products. The stakeholder noted that in the size grouping of 35-50 inches, EPA lists just 9 ME 2013 qualifying models, which points to the criteria as being overly aggressive in the highest selling, most popular size category among consumers.</p> <p>Of the 30 models in the “small-size” grouping and the popular 37 and 40-inch size categories, this stakeholder additionally commented that only Samsung models qualify among the largest TV manufacturers (group including Panasonic, LG, Sony, Sharp, Samsung). The stakeholder stated that the current proposal is over reaching, and largely steers consumers toward a single manufacturer, which should not be an objective or intentional consequence of the Most Efficient program. Further, the stakeholder commented that claiming that five manufacturers currently have products that would qualify is misleading as two of the manufacturers are actually the same marketer (Philips and Funai), and a third manufacturer (Gold Alliance Electronics) cannot be found on the September 2012 ENERGY STAR TVs qualifying products database. For these reasons, the stakeholder urged the EPA to reconsider its proposed Most Efficient 2013 levels to ensure greater participation by more manufacturers and expanded consumer choice in the marketplace.</p>	<p>EPA received feedback that the 2013 proposal for televisions is overly restrictive in the most highly sought after screen sizes, those 35-50 inches. EPA's recognition principles for the ENERGY STAR Most Efficient program have guided product category selection and criteria development to help ensure the program highlights products with truly exceptional energy efficiency performance. As part of those principles, EPA noted it was not the goal of the Most Efficient program to ensure that there were qualifying models in all sizes or configurations. However, in response to stakeholder feedback, EPA has made a modest adjustment to the criteria In an effort to strike an appropriate balance between selectivity and availability of recognized products, such that a handful of additional models in the 35-50 inch screen range are eligible. With this slightly revised proposal, a total of 45 models meet the Most Efficient 2013 criteria proposed, 8.3% of models qualified to ENERGY STAR In 2012 and 4.8% of our entire qualified product list (including 2011 models).</p>