

Summary of EPA-DOE Partnership

Program Enhancements

- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) will coordinate to expand and enhance the National Building Rating Program and the ENERGY STAR program.
- The National Building Rating Program will be enhanced through expanded rating tools, new building improvement assessment tools, and labels to communicate this information.
- The ENERGY STAR products program will be enhanced through expanded coverage, more frequent updates, enhanced efforts on product testing, and a new effort to recognize super efficient products.

Partnership Framework and Agency Roles and Responsibilities

The EPA/DOE partnership will include new Governing Council and clear roles and responsibilities for the agencies in each of the program areas.

The Governing Council:

- Will be made up of the EPA Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation and the DOE Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.
- Will guide, coordinate, and oversee annual budget requests, annual program plans, and future changes to key program elements.
- Will ensure that work programs between EPA and DOE are complementary (and not duplicative) and leverage federal dollars to achieve maximum energy efficiency.
- Will coordinate communication about this partnership to outside stakeholders, including Congress, the Administration, and the public.
- Will ensure that Energy Star, EPCA appliance standard, and whole building related programs are mutually reinforcing and coordinate their enforcement and verification efforts.
- Will hold meetings twice annually with stakeholders.

For Products:

- EPA will be the brand manager for the Energy Star and Super Star¹ for products program including marketing, outreach, monitoring and verification, and setting the performance level(s). Performance levels will be set using established and consistent principles for the ENERGY STAR brand. Generally, products in the top 25% will qualify as Energy Star and the top 5% will qualify as Super Star.
- DOE will support EPA by increasing its efforts in monitoring and verifying test procedure compliance and the development of Federal test procedures and metrics.
- EPA will maintain the master database of Energy Star and Super Star products and test results.
- EPA will develop the lists of new products to be added to the Energy Star and Super Star program for consideration by the Governing Council.

For Buildings:

¹ Super Star is used to reflect a higher tier; the name and look of this higher tier will be developed through market research

- DOE will manage the National Building Rating Program, consisting of building test procedures, building rating tools, and consumer-oriented building labels. DOE will establish all Federal test procedures for buildings, which will include “asset,” and “operational” characteristics, and benchmark buildings against similar buildings.
- DOE will maintain the master database of buildings rated by the National Building Rating Program.
- EPA will be the brand manager when the “Energy Star” is applied to whole buildings, including marketing, outreach, monitoring and verification, and performance level(s). Performance levels will be set using established and consistent principles for the ENERGY STAR brand. The eligibility of buildings for the ENERGY STAR logo will be based on the rating systems of the National Building Rating Program.
- DOE will support EPA with efforts in monitoring and verifying program compliance.