

----- Message from Steve Shapiro <nr4p@earthlink.net> on Fri, 18 Mar 2011 00:02:24 +0000 -----

**To:** "mostefficient@energystar.gov"  
<mostefficient@energystar.gov>

**Subject:** Comments on Energy Star Recognition Criteria

Dear sir or madam:

With respect to your television energy star program, I believe that your rating system and proposal is out of touch with the sales practice and use of televisions today. Specifically the televisions require additional electronics for the television to be used as an audio/visual device.

The ratings systems do not include the need for an additional external audio system. This is a requirement for most of the large screen televisions sold today.

As manufacturers such as LG, Samsung and Sony have concentrated on the smallest possible size and depth, the internal speakers are not usable.

For example go to your local retail store and ask to listen to the internal speakers that come with the television. Have them disconnect the external speakers. You will be appalled at how poor these televisions sound. When you tell the salesperson how poor the sound is, they will respond with something to effect of: Everyone who buys a TV like this wants to listen to everything in Surround Sound so an external sound system is usually sold.

What this means is that to watch the local news, I need to add an external sound system. Or a 5 year old watching Sesame Street, needs an external sound system.

Go to your local Best Buy, Sony Store or other retailer and listen to the sound on a 55" or larger television. Particular the newer LED models that boast the lowest energy usage. Stand 10-15 feet away, a typical viewing distance for such a large TV. You won't be able to hear it well and the sound quality will be no better than an AM radio in many cases. Whatever the energy rating is, you need to then add a couple of hundred watts of audio power that will be required with the external sound system.

In summary, the Energy Star program for televisions falls short of giving the consumer a true reflection of daily power use and cost over a year. External sound systems must be included for televisions that have poor sound.

Sincerely,

Steven Shapiro