

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



OFFICE OF  
AIR AND RADIATION

October 13, 2008

Dear Commercial Oven Manufacturer or Other Interested Party:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is interested in expanding ENERGY STAR® to include commercial ovens 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 commercial ovens. This letter also serves to describe the Consortium for Energy Efficiency (CEE), their efforts on convection ovens, and the planned coordination between EPA and CEE on these separate initiatives.

**Overview of ENERGY STAR Program**

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 2,000 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 70% of Americans recognize the ENERGY STAR label
- American consumers have purchased more than 2.5 billion ENERGY STAR qualified products

Energy efficiency helps the economy too, by saving consumers and businesses billions of dollars in energy costs. In 2007, Americans – with the help of ENERGY STAR – prevented 40 million metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions, equivalent to the emissions of 27 million vehicles, and saved \$16 billion on their utility bills. 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.

### **Opportunity for Commercial Ovens**

Initial research has shown that there are existing technologies available in the commercial oven market that offer significant energy savings. Based on current availability of industry accepted test procedures and performance data, EPA will initially focus on developing energy efficiency requirements for the following three oven types: convection; rack; and rotisserie. EPA understands that there are additional oven categories that have test procedures under revision or in development through ASTM, including: range; conveyor; deck; cook and hold; combi; and rapid cook. EPA will consider addressing these additional categories in future versions of the ENERGY STAR specification once the ASTM process is complete and data is available. Manufacturers are encouraged to participate in the ASTM test procedure development process for ovens and other commercial foodservice equipment by contacting David Zabrowski, Fisher Nickel, Inc. at [dzabrowski@fishnick.com](mailto:dzabrowski@fishnick.com).

Over the next few months EPA will work with manufacturers and other interested parties to: (1) collect, review, and analyze energy efficiency performance data; and (2) propose minimum efficiency and testing requirements in a Draft 1 specification for review and comment. Stakeholders will be given approximately 30 days to comment on the Draft 1 specification and subsequent draft 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.

### **Coordination Between EPA and CEE**

CEE is a consortium of efficiency program administrators from across the United States and Canada who work together on common approaches to advancing efficiency. Through joining forces, the individual efficiency programs of CEE are able to partner not only with each other, but with other industries, trade associations, and government agencies. By working together at CEE, administrators leverage the effect of their funding dollars, exchange information on effective practices and, by doing so, achieve greater energy efficiency for the public good.

CEE works to advance energy efficiency for the benefit of the public by helping efficiency programs be more effective through enhanced communications and increased harmonization. To support this mission, CEE develops initiatives, or consensus program templates, available for voluntary adoption. Often, initiatives include energy performance specifications, signifying a level of efficient performance within numerous product categories, including commercial foodservice equipment. These specifications serve as a valuable basis for program planners and implementers to develop energy efficiency programs, harmonize common definitions and energy performance levels, and provide financial incentives where appropriate. In most cases, CEE Tier 1 level performance requirements are consistent with the ENERGY STAR specification. The


number of additional tiers, and the level of performance each requires, depends on the unique characteristics of a given market.

Although related in ultimate purpose, EPA's process for developing energy efficiency specifications is separate from CEE's. With regard to convection ovens, our efforts will overlap, as CEE also plans to research the viability of common performance specifications over the next several months. Both organizations are committed to working closely on these efforts to minimize confusion and burden on industry, and to ensure that levels are harmonized to the extent practical. For more information on CEE and the CEE Commercial Kitchens Initiative visit [www.ceel.org](http://www.ceel.org) or contact Kim Erickson at [kerickson@ceel.org](mailto:kerickson@ceel.org).

### **ENERGY STAR Contact Information**

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, 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) or Rebecca Duff, ICF International, at (202) 862-1266 or [rduff@icfi.com](mailto:rduff@icfi.com). 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 fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Rachel Schmeltz  
ENERGY STAR Program Manager