

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



OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

February 03, 2010

Dear Uninterruptible Power Supply Equipment Manufacturers and Other Interested Parties:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is launching the development of an ENERGY STAR[®] specification for uninterruptible power supplies (UPSs). The following is an outline of EPA's goals and next steps for the specification development process.

ENERGY STAR is a voluntary partnership between government, businesses, and purchasers designed to encourage the manufacture, purchase, and use of efficient products to help protect the environment. Products that earn the ENERGY STAR prevent greenhouse gas emissions by meeting strict energy efficiency guidelines. Manufacturers that qualify their products to meet ENERGY STAR requirements may use the label as a tool to educate their customers about the enhanced value of these products. To date:

- More than 2,400 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 75% of Americans recognize the ENERGY STAR label,
- Consumers have purchased more than 2.5 billion ENERGY STAR qualified products, and
- Americans, with the help of ENERGY STAR, saved enough energy in 2008 to avoid greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to those from 29 million cars -- while saving \$19 billion on utility bills.

EPA recently conducted a scoping effort to evaluate UPS products for inclusion in the ENERGY STAR program. EPA reviewed market data and held many discussions with product manufacturers, industry associations, and other parties. As a result of this effort, EPA found the following:

- UPS products are common throughout the enterprise data center, small office, and home office/entertainment markets, and represent an opportunity for ENERGY STAR to expand upon its energy efficiency experience with power supplies and data center IT equipment.
- National energy-savings potential compares favorably to that from other ENERGY STAR product categories.

- Several test standards, including *IEC 62040-3*, *CAN/CSA-C813.1-0*, serve the UPS market. There is opportunity for ENERGY STAR to expand upon these established standards in the development of a standard evaluation method for UPS energy efficiency.
- Efficiency improvements are not likely to have a negative impact on product performance.
- A labeling program will help consumers identify the most efficient UPS solution for their specific application.

EPA has concluded that purchasers in all UPS markets will benefit from access to standardized UPS energy performance data made available through the ENERGY STAR program. As a result, EPA intends to begin the specification development process. Details on this process will be forthcoming in the next several weeks.

The exchange of ideas and information between EPA, product manufacturers, and other interested parties is critical to our success. We hope you will actively participate in the ENERGY STAR specification development process. If you know of others who may be interested in participating in this process, please forward this announcement and encourage them to send their contact information to UPS@energystar.gov to be added to the stakeholder contact list.

Please direct any specific questions to Kathleen Vokes, EPA, at vokes.kathleen@epa.gov or Sarah Medepalli, ICF International, at smedepalli@icfi.com.

We look forward to working with you and thank you for your interest in ENERGY STAR.

Sincerely,



Kathleen Vokes
US Environmental Protection Agency
ENERGY STAR for UPS