

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



OFFICE OF  
AIR AND RADIATION

Dear ENERGY STAR® Furnace Partner or Other Interested Party:

To ensure that ENERGY STAR continues to expand the market of energy-efficient products and accelerate the market penetration of energy-efficient technologies, each ENERGY STAR specification must be periodically reevaluated. In the coming months, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will be revisiting the current ENERGY STAR specification for furnace products.

The primary purpose of revisiting the current ENERGY STAR specification for furnaces is two-fold: (1) to investigate a more appropriate AFUE level for oil furnaces that takes into account the challenges of designing for efficiency with this fuel type and provides for greater availability of ENERGY STAR qualified models in the Northeastern U.S.; and (2) to determine the cost effectiveness and applicability of including an energy-efficiency metric that addresses electricity used by the furnace fan.

Furnace fans consume a significant amount of energy and provide EPA with an opportunity to identify and label the most efficient models across many types of technologies and fuel sources. Initiatives by industry stakeholders, such as the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (ACEEE) and the Gas Appliance Manufacturers Association (GAMA), have paved the way for EPA to consider revisions to the existing ENERGY STAR furnace specification.

Once EPA has completed its preliminary research a decision will be made as to whether the existing furnace specification needs to be revised. If EPA decides to revise the specification we will follow the standard ENERGY STAR specification revision process, working closely with all interested stakeholders to ensure that the new requirements effectively recognize the top performing models in the marketplace in terms of energy efficiency, without sacrificing product performance. All EPA correspondence and specification documents will be posted throughout the revision process to the ENERGY STAR Product Development Web site at [www.energystar.gov/productdevelopment](http://www.energystar.gov/productdevelopment) (click on "Revisions to Existing Product Specifications"). In addition, all written comments received by EPA will be posted, with permission from the commenter, to the same site.

The exchange of ideas and information between EPA, industry, and other interested parties is critical to the success of ENERGY STAR. Stakeholder input is very valuable during this specification review process. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at (202) 343-9124 or [schmeltz.rachel@epa.gov](mailto:schmeltz.rachel@epa.gov). The current furnace product specification will remain in place until a new set of specifications can be finalized with a new effective date.

Thank you for your continued support of ENERGY STAR. I look forward to working with you during the specification revision process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rachel Schmeltz".

Rachel Schmeltz  
ENERGY STAR Program Manager