

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



OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

November 21, 2008

Dear Audio/Video Equipment Manufacturer or Other Interested Party:

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is currently reviewing the ENERGY STAR[®] Audio/DVD specification to assess both new opportunities for increased product efficiency and the potential to address new product categories and technologies now available in the audio/video marketplace. The purpose of this letter is to solicit your interest in participating in the ENERGY STAR Audio/Video specification revision process.

ENERGY STAR Background

Due to the number and diversity of new products within the broad audio/video category, there are many manufacturers who will be new to the ENERGY STAR specification development process. Following is a brief introduction to the program:

ENERGY STAR is a voluntary partnership between government, businesses, and purchasers designed to encourage the manufacture, purchase, and use of efficient products. 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:

- More than 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

2007 was the most successful year to date for the ENERGY STAR program. Americans, with the help of ENERGY STAR, prevented 40 MMTCE of greenhouse gas emissions in 2007 alone – equivalent to the emissions from 27 million vehicles – and saved more than \$16 billion on their utility bills.

Next Steps for Audio/Video

The existing Version 1.0 ENERGY STAR specification for Audio/DVD products, which has been in effect for some time, was designed to address stand-by energy use in a limited set of product types available at the time. The rapid turnover of products and technologies and changes in usage patterns within the category necessitates the development of a new, more inclusive, and more flexible Version 2.0 specification to promote greater energy efficiency in today's diverse market for audio/video products.

Over the next several months EPA will engage with audio/video product manufacturers and other interested parties to: (1) identify and define the types of equipment to be covered by ENERGY STAR; (2) determine appropriate means of testing the energy consumption of these products; (3) collect, review, and analyze energy efficiency performance data; and (4) propose product definitions, the technical approach for this product category, and efficiency levels in a series of draft documents for stakeholder review and comment.

EPA intends to host a Webinar in mid-December to review preliminary stakeholder assessments and solicit stakeholder feedback as early in the process as possible. A full schedule and agenda will be distributed via email and posted to the ENERGY STAR Website. Interested stakeholders should visit www.energystar.gov/productdevelopment, click on “Revisions to Existing Specifications”, and navigate to “Audio/Video”.

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 the specification development process, please forward this announcement and encourage them to send their contact information to AudioVideo@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 Stephen Pantano, ICF International, at spantano@icfi.com.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kathleen Vokes', followed by a horizontal line.

Kathleen Vokes
US Environmental Protection Agency
ENERGY STAR for Audio/Video