

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



OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

April 21, 2014

Dear ENERGY STAR[®] Emerging Technology Award Stakeholder:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is seeking further comment in our process to update the ENERGY STAR Emerging Technology Award criteria for advanced clothes dryers for 2014, which harmonize the efficiency metric and testing requirements with the ENERGY STAR Clothes Dryer Version 1.0 specification. EPA believes these criteria are consistent with our goal to recognize innovative products that have the potential to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions and reward manufacturer efforts to think differently about dryer design and controls, offering significant savings to consumers. Depending on the setting selected, these criteria are 9-35% more energy-efficient than the proposed ENERGY STAR Version 1.0 specification for standard dryers.

User Controls and Settings

In response to comments received to date, adjustments have been made to the settings specified and the associated minimum efficiency levels, compared to the previous draft. Commenters were concerned that manufacturers would include settings that enabled fast dry times at the expense of energy efficiency. In response to this concern, EPA has added an “efficiency floor” that in the worst case aligns with the new federal minimum efficiency level for standard electric dryers. Consistent with EPA’s expectation that recognized dryers be designed to encourage use of the highest efficiency mode, the Agency has also clarified that manufacturers should develop user controls that clearly identify the highest efficiency setting. Award winning dryers should also have accompanying consumer education materials that direct the user on how to engage the setting with the highest efficiency and clearly show the relative energy use of the consumer selected settings. EPA received some comments regarding the treatment of compact dryers and has folded them into the standard dryer category, in response.

Gas Dryers

Several commenters questioned whether gas dryers would be eligible for the Award. Absent an emerging gas technology, EPA does not intend to establish recognition criteria for gas dryers. However, the Agency is sensitive to concerns raised regarding potential fuel switching and intends to offer consumer education in conjunction with Award materials, making clear the merits of gas dryers as they are currently made and sold.

Comment Submittal

Interested stakeholders are encouraged to provide feedback on the proposed recognition criteria to emergingtech@energystar.gov by **May 5, 2014**. EPA hopes to issue final eligibility criteria in early summer 2014. Once the final criteria are released, manufactures with technologies that meet them may begin submitting the necessary documentation for EPA review. Winners of the Award will be announced as it is determined that all Award criteria have been satisfied and in conjunction with manufacturer product launch plans.

If you have any questions about the Award, please contact me at (202) 343-9408 or banwell.peter@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'PB', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Peter Banwell
Director, ENERGY STAR Product Marketing