

Dear Rating Host,

This is the first email in a periodic series to the energy information providers that host the National Energy Performance Rating System. As EPA's hosting community grows, these emails will be used to communicate status, plans, and the evolution of the XML-based automated hosting initiative. ENERGY STAR would like to thank each of you, our pilot third-party hosts, for your diligence and contribution to the success of this new initiative. Some of you are already providing ratings to your customers and actively marketing this capability, and 2004 promises more success and a formal rollout of this offering to ENERGY STAR Partners and others. Content from these emails will also be posted on the ENERGY STAR web site:
http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=spp_res.pt_neprs.

Two of our hosts won awards at the ENERGY STAR 2004 awards ceremony March 2nd in Washington, DC (http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=news.nr_news). Jim Rooney, ei3's Vice President of Sales accepted the Service Provider Partner of the Year award for his company, citing his company's aggressive incorporation of the rating system into their company's energy information products. Barry Abramson, accepted an award for sustained excellence for Servidyne Systems, three-time award winner and service provider noted for incorporating the rating into energy audits, upgrades, and recognition of excellence by certifying high performing buildings as ENERGY STAR.

The ENERGY STAR class of 2003 was also just announced (http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=news.nr_news). These 1400 buildings represent the highest performing buildings in the country, and are an excellent indicator of the organizations that are serious about investing in energy management across their portfolios. As a vendor of the rating system, you are in an excellent position to help your existing clients and the more than 900 ENERGY STAR Partners join the ENERGY STAR class of 2004 by identifying and certifying examples of excellence within their portfolios.

We are currently working to migrate to a new server, which will result in a more consolidated approach to data handling and better throughput. This is scheduled to be completed by the end of March, so stay tuned for notification regarding specific dates and URL or other changes, which we anticipate to be minimal.

We have recently added several new building types to our benchmarking models, and as well as updated the models for other space types. The XML schema will be updated so that these characteristics can be added (the existing schema will continue to be accepted and processed). You will receive an updated XML schema and details on the updates at the same time that we formally initiate the move to the new server (so any changes you need to make can occur simultaneous).

Most of you have requested assistance on how best to communicate the ENERGY STAR rating to existing and potential customers. In addition to the current messaging found on the ENERGY STAR website, the attached document will make it easier for you to provide the kind of consistent messaging that will attract customers.

Thank you very much for your support in 2003, and your continued interest in ENERGY STAR. Please continue to provide comments and feedback via this email or to Don Anderson at danderson@icfconsulting.com.

Sincerely,

National Energy Performance Rating System Support