

Proposed Change to Eligibility Criteria for Designed to Earn the ENERGY STAR® Recognition



The U.S. government recently established a goal of net-zero emissions, economy-wide, by 2050. Designing and delivering new efficient commercial buildings will play a critical role in achieving that goal. And starting with the design offers the best opportunities to incorporate energy efficient technologies and strategies into commercial buildings.

The EPA established Designed to Earn the ENERGY STAR in 2004 as a national recognition for energy efficient commercial



new construction and major renovation projects. Now we are proposing to raise the required ENERGY STAR score for achieving Designed to Earn the ENERGY STAR recognition to encourage deeper and more innovative energy efficiency measures that lower energy demand. This will require a change from business-as-usual by architects/engineers and building owners in designing to decarbonize the built environment.

Overview of Criteria Change for Receiving Designed to Earn the ENERGY STAR Recognition

The EPA is proposing to change the criteria for achieving Designed to Earn the ENERGY STAR recognition to encourage greater energy efficiency, which will reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with the building once occupied.

The proposed change is outlined below.

Increase Energy Efficiency of Your Design

Requirement:

The project must meet eligibility requirements for ENERGY STAR recognition and the total estimated annual energy use must receive a design score of **80** or higher.

EPA recommends incorporation of clean energy strategies into project design wherever possible. Though **not** requirements for this recognition, these actions can help to increase your ENERGY STAR design score and accelerate progress toward zero emissions goals.

Implementation:

Target Finder or Portfolio Manager® tool will indicate if the design project's estimated annual energy use meets or exceeds an ENERGY STAR score of 80.

Rationale:

Significantly increasing the energy efficiency of the built environment is critical to achieving our carbon reduction goals. The design stage offers the best opportunities to incorporate energy

efficient technologies and strategies into commercial buildings that might be cost-prohibitive later in the building's lifecycle.

Increasing the minimum required ENERGY STAR score from a 75 to an 80 recognizes the significant advancement that has taken place in both design and building systems in recent years and encourages deeper energy efficiency for the design. Reducing heating, cooling, and lighting demand and implementing innovative strategies such as climate-responsive design and daylighting, among others, will help meet your efficiency goals.

Questions

1. What is your opinion of the proposal to increase the minimum required ENERGY STAR score to 80 for design projects to achieve Designed to Earn the ENERGY STAR recognition?
2. Are there other changes you would recommend for the Designed to Earn the ENERGY STAR recognition?

Please visit the [Achieve Designed to Earn the ENERGY STAR](#) page to view a recording of an informational webinar and submit comments.

