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



OFFICE OF AIR AND RADIATION

April 16, 2024

Dear ENERGY STAR® Central Air Conditioner Manufacturer or Other Interested Party:

On May 18, 2023, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) distributed a proposal to sunset the ENERGY STAR specification for central air conditioners (CAC). The ENERGY STAR program serves an important role in helping consumers realize the benefits of energy efficiency from both a cost and environmental perspective. ENERGY STAR specifications are periodically reviewed and updated to ensure that they provide meaningful differentiation for highly energy-efficient products. The EPA develops new and updated specifications through a transparent process in consultation with manufacturers, brand owners, and other stakeholders before making decisions consistent with the program's objectives and principles. With this letter, the EPA is proposing to delay the sunset of the ENERGY STAR Central Air Conditioner specification to February 1, 2026, with no new certifications accepted after May 1, 2025, allowing additional time for the transition.

The Agency appreciates the extensive stakeholder engagement and comments on the CAC sunset proposal. The majority of commenters responding to the May 2023 proposal supported the CAC sunset, noting that in virtually all parts of the US using a heat pump instead of an air conditioner saves energy, money, and greenhouse gas emissions by partially or fully offsetting other heat sources. In addition, several pointed out that Inflation Reduction Act programs more than account for the cost difference between a heat pump and a CAC. Some objected to the CAC sunset based on their interest in continuing to promote efficient CAC systems in regions where heat is not needed. In addition, a few indicated that the proposed timeline was too fast for the HVAC industry. One commentator that supported the sunset also asked for a slower timeline than originally proposed.

The EPA notes that an extremely limited number of US households operate without some form of heating and to the extent homeowners wish to purchase central air conditioners, they will continue to be able to distinguish energy saving models based on the EnergyGuide label. The delay proposed here would allow more time for the HVAC industry and utility incentive programs in cooling-only climates to prepare for the change.

The public is encouraged to provide written comments on the revised CAC sunset proposal for the EPA's consideration to HVAC@energystar.gov by May 16, 2024. All comments will be posted to the ENERGY STAR Product Development website unless the submitter requests otherwise.

Please direct any specific questions to Holly Tapani, EPA, at Tapani.Holly@epa.gov or 202-564-0679 and Megan McNelly, ICF, at megan.mcnelly@icf.com or 703-934-3726.

¹A summary and response to comments can be found in the [Sunset Proposal Comment Matrix](#). Individual comment letters can be reviewed on the [sunset proposal webpage](#).

Sincerely,



Abigail Daken, EPA Product Manager
ENERGY STAR for HVAC

For more information, visit: www.energystar.gov

