



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

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

July 31, 2024

Dear ENERGY STAR® Commercial Water Heater Stakeholders:

With this letter, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is releasing an [ENERGY STAR Central Heat Pump Water Heater Systems Discussion Guide](#) and [Draft 1 ENERGY STAR Central Heat Pump Water Heater Systems Test Method](#). The purpose of this discussion guide and draft test method is to solicit public comment to further inform how central heat pump water heaters (Central HPWH) will be handled in the upcoming ENERGY STAR Version 3 specification for commercial water heaters. When that revision is launched, the EPA will share proposals related to all commercial water heaters that are in scope, but first seeks input on central HPWH in particular.

Central HPWHs are an essential tool to efficiently decarbonize larger buildings, including mid- and high-rise multifamily, where they could largely replace the current central water heaters in existing buildings. They also offer a potentially economical way to serve new multifamily buildings. While these products are currently in scope for the ENERGY STAR Version 2 Commercial Water Heater specification, the current coverage is inadequate for several reasons outlined in the discussion guide.

The discussion guide sets the framework for how the EPA envisions capturing system performance in the Version 3.0 specification. One of the reasons the current coverage is inadequate is that the performance of the heat pump engine is only characterized at a single set of conditions and in one configuration rather than covering the range of common conditions affecting the units. The proposed test method addresses this issue. Furthermore, the specification only covers the performance of the heat pump engine itself, while the achieved efficiency depends on the system it works within and on other components in the system.

Comment Submittal:

The EPA relies on public engagement in its specification efforts and encourages those with interest or knowledge to submit written comments for the EPA's consideration to HVAC@energystar.gov no later than **Friday, September 13, 2024**. As a reminder, all submitted comments will be posted to the [ENERGY STAR product development website](#) unless the submitter specifically requests their respective comments remain confidential.

Public Meeting:

The EPA plans to host a public webinar on **Thursday, August 15, 2024, from 3 – 5 PM Eastern Time**, to cover topics outlined in the discussion guide. Those interested in the topic are encouraged to attend and may register [here](#).

Please contact Abigail Daken, EPA, at Daken.Abigail@epa.gov or 202-343-9375 or Megan McNelly, ICF, at Megan.McNelly@icf.com with questions or concerns. For any questions on commercial water heater testing, please contact Julia Hegarty, DOE, at Julia.Hegarty@ee.doe.gov. Thank you for your continued support of the ENERGY STAR program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Abigail Daken", is enclosed in a thin black rectangular border. The signature is cursive and fluid.

Abigail Daken, Product Manager ENERGY STAR HVAC and Water Heating
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Enclosures:

[ENERGY STAR Central Heat Pump Water Heater Systems Discussion Guide](#)

[Draft 1 ENERGY STAR Test Method for Central Heat Pump Water Heater Systems](#)