

By email
August 14, 2024

US Environmental Protection Agency
C/O Ann Bailey, Director
ENERGY STAR Product Labeling Branch
William Jefferson Clinton Federal Building
Washington, D.C. 20460

Sunset of ENERGY STAR Specification

Dear Ms. Bailey,

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the EPA's proposal to sunset the ENERGY STAR specification for audiovisual (AV) systems. As an audiovisual designer deeply committed to both innovation and a sustainable future, I have found the ENERGY STAR standard to an asset in my work, and one of the best references the audiovisual industry can use with an aim toward sustainability.

The ENERGY STAR label has been a trusted benchmark for energy efficiency, guiding both manufacturers and end users towards more sustainable choices. In my role, I have relied on this standard to ensure that the AV systems I design not only meet high performance criteria but also contribute to reducing energy consumption and environmental impact. The label has provided a clear and recognizable indicator of efficiency, which has been instrumental in promoting eco-friendly products in the market.

While I understand the rationale behind the proposal, I believe that the ENERGY STAR standard still holds significant value. The US should be a leader in helping to build a more sustainable future, but as it stands, we are unfortunately behind the efforts of other developed nations when it comes to sustainable design of technology systems. This proposal by the EPA would result in a step backward at a time when real progress is needed to secure our future. The evolution of AV technology, including the integration of smart features and enhanced connectivity, presents new opportunities for energy efficiency improvements. For instance, the development of more efficient power management and communications systems, and the potential for further reductions in standby power consumption are areas where the ENERGY STAR label can continue to drive progress.

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Moreover, the ENERGY STAR standard has played a crucial role in raising awareness about energy efficiency among users. It has empowered them to make informed decisions, leading to a broader adoption of energy-saving technologies. Sunsetting the standard could result in a loss of momentum in these efforts, potentially slowing down the transition to more sustainable AV solutions.

In conclusion, I urge the EPA to reconsider the proposal to sunset the ENERGY STAR specification for AV systems. Maintaining this standard will not only support ongoing advancements in energy efficiency but also reinforce the commitment to a more sustainable future. I appreciate the opportunity to provide input on this important matter and hope that my perspective as an audiovisual subject matter expert will be taken into account.

Thank you for your attention to this issue.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Birklid

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