



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

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

November 1, 2024

Dear ENERGY STAR® Audio/Video Stakeholders:

With this letter, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is finalizing the sunset of the ENERGY STAR specification for Audio/Video (AV) equipment, effective August 20, 2025. The EPA remains open to reconsidering whether ENERGY STAR can play an effective role in differentiating these products at some future date, as technologies evolve.

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. Absent the ability to do that based on AV stakeholder engagement and market evolution in recent years, The EPA believes making the decision to sunset this category is the right choice.

The EPA thanks stakeholders who submitted comments on the sunset proposal released last July. The Agency received feedback from four manufacturers and eight other stakeholders about the importance of the ENERGY STAR program, particularly for soundbars and commercial amplifiers. There was recognition that sunset of certain categories such as Blu-ray players may be justified due to the declining relevance of physical media. All written comments are posted [here](#).

The EPA has made a concerted effort to enhance the value of the ENERGY STAR label for AV equipment over recent years. The Agency proposed options for soundbars two years ago referencing a new test procedure based on limited data and received no comments. Since then, The EPA conducted further market screening and found low power consuming options for across the market, even though ENERGY STAR shipments have remained extremely low (i.e. 2%). For commercial AV equipment, The EPA was unable to propose levels due to inadequate information on product performance against the latest CTA standard and received no input from stakeholders on how to differentiate these models. While The EPA appreciates the input from designers and purchasers relying on ENERGY STAR for commercial AV products, there is not sufficient information to justify retaining current levels nor setting new levels.

Manufacturers emphasized ENERGY STAR's roles in both establishing and maintaining a minimum efficiency baseline for soundbars and covering these products as these technologies evolve. However, with only 2% of the market associated with the ENERGY STAR label, engagement is too low for ENERGY STAR to achieve that purpose.

Timeline Milestones

The EPA recognizes the investment ENERGY STAR brand owner, retailer and utility partners have made in certifying and promoting products in these categories and is sensitive to providing a reasonable transition period. The Agency proposes to sunset the ENERGY STAR Version 3.0 Audio Video specification effective August 20, 2025. To facilitate a smooth transition under this proposal, partners will no longer be able to certify new products as of February 1, 2025.

Consistent with past ENERGY STAR product category sunsets, the following milestones are associated with implementing this sunset:

- ENERGY STAR certified AV products and their ENERGY STAR Brandowner partners will continue to be recognized at www.energystar.gov until August 20, 2025.
- No new Partnership Agreements for the AV program will be accepted by The EPA as of February 1, 2025
- No new certified product information for the AV program will be accepted by The EPA as of February 1, 2025.
- Brandowner Partners must stop using the ENERGY STAR name and ENERGY STAR mark in association with all AV products manufactured and services offered on or after August 20, 2025.
- To minimize the cost of labeling changes and be in compliance by August 20, 2025, manufacturers of AV products are encouraged to remove ENERGY STAR references on Web sites or in other collateral materials as these materials are reprinted or changed in the coming months. Manufacturers are permitted to use up existing printed material, including packaging, in order to minimize waste.

Partners who have any questions or want to discuss their plans to discontinue labelling may contact audiovideo@energystar.gov. In closing, The EPA appreciates the efforts of all AV stakeholders to advance a cleaner environment through the ENERGY STAR Program and applauds your success in moving the market towards greater energy efficiency.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ann Bailey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ann" and last name "Bailey" clearly distinguishable.

Ann Bailey, Director
ENERGY STAR Product Labeling Branch
US Environmental Protection Agency

Enclosure:

[Audio Video Sunset Comment Summary](#)