



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

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

December 2, 2024

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

With this letter, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is finalizing the sunset of the ENERGY STAR specification for Central Air Conditioners (CAC) effective February 1, 2026.

The EPA thanks stakeholders who submitted comments on the revised sunset proposal, released in April 2024. All written comments are posted [here](#). The majority of feedback was positive with a wide range of commenters reiterating support for the sunset, noting the voluntary nature of the ENERGY STAR program and that homeowners will still be able to purchase CACs if they meet their needs. For those wishing to distinguish energy saving models in the future, commenters identified other useful resources such as Consortium for Energy Efficiency performance tiers and the EnergyGuide label. Some also expressed concern about the potential for continued endorsement of CACs by the ENERGY STAR program to impede them in reaching decarbonization and heat pump installation goals for residential buildings. Of these commenters, several supported the revised sunset effective date of February 1, 2026, while others advocated for the timeline as originally proposed for December 2024.

A small number of commenters remain opposed to a sunset, citing continued energy savings potential from efficient CACs and relevancy for consumers who do not have heating needs or are not good heat pump candidates. Others requested that the EPA delay the implementation of the sunset beyond February 1, 2026, citing challenges for a national transition to heat pumps, including market readiness, contractor training, and affordability of efficient heat pump technology.

As noted by several commenters, the EPA anticipates improved affordability of efficient heat pumps through IRA benefits and utility program incentives and considers the small increase in price to be marginal, given the additional heating capabilities of heat pump technology. Weighing all of the feedback on timing, the Agency concludes that, on balance, the delayed effective date of February 1, 2026, is appropriate.

All feedback in response to the CAC specification sunset proposal has been carefully considered by the EPA and is discussed further in the [Comment Response Matrix](#) that accompanies this letter.

Milestones for Sunsetting ENERGY STAR CACs

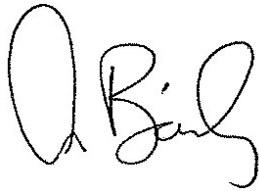
The sunset will proceed consistent with the following milestones:

- ENERGY STAR certified CACs and their brand owners will continue to be recognized at www.energystar.gov until February 1, 2026.
- No new Partnership Agreements for the CAC program will be accepted by the EPA as of July 15, 2025.
- No new CAC certifications will be accepted by the EPA as of July 15, 2025.

- Manufacturers and brand owners must stop using the ENERGY STAR name and ENERGY STAR mark in association with all CAC manufactured and services offered on or after February 1, 2026.
- In order to be in compliance by February 1, 2026, manufacturers of CACs 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. Partners 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 labeling may contact HVAC@energystar.gov. In closing, the EPA appreciates the efforts of all CAC 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 letter of the first name being a large, open "A".

Ann Bailey, Director
ENERGY STAR Product Labeling

Attachments:

[ENERGY STAR CAC Sunset Proposal Comment Response Matrix](#)