



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

OFFICE OF  
AIR AND RADIATION

December 4, 2024

Dear ENERGY STAR® Partners and other Stakeholders:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is pleased to announce the final [ENERGY STAR Most Efficient 2025 Recognition Criteria for Air Source Heat Pumps](#) (ASHPs). In concert with this release, the EPA also shares the final [Version 6.2 amendment](#) to the ENERGY STAR ASHP specification. This letter outlines the criteria and amendment, both finalized as proposed to better align ENERGY STAR Most Efficient 2025 with the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) 25C tax credit eligibility requirements and enable more effective leveraging of the widely recognized ENERGY STAR brand to communicate about qualifying models.

**ENERGY STAR Most Efficient 2025 ASHP Final Recognition Criteria**

Feedback received on the proposal was largely supportive. While alternate approaches for setting criteria were offered by select stakeholders, the 2025 criteria, as finalized, reasonably reflect top performance in the context of today’s market to the extent they align with the Consortium for Energy Efficiency (CEE) highest tier for ASHPs. Summaries and responses to the comments can be found in the [ENERGY STAR Most Efficient 2025 & Specification Version 6.2 ASHP Comment Response Matrix](#).

The final 2025 ENERGY STAR Most Efficient ASHP recognition criteria remains unchanged from the proposal, as follows:

Product type	SEER2	EER2	HSPF2
Split system HP (Ducted & Ductless)	16.0	11.0	8.0
Single-package HP	15.2	10.0	7.2
Cold Climate Split HP (Ducted & Ductless)	16.0	9.8	8.5
Cold Climate Packaged HP	15.2	10.0	8.1

The criteria also include a minimum 1.75 COP at 5°F and 70% heating capacity at 5°F compared to 47°F requirements for cold climate heat pumps and a low ambient temperature performance backstop of 1.75 COP at 5°F and a 45% heating capacity requirement at 5°F compared to 47°F for non-cold climate HPs. The installation benefits requirement has been removed. In addition to meeting the ENERGY STAR Most Efficient 2025 recognition criteria, products must be ENERGY STAR certified by an EPA-recognized certification body.

The EPA notes that in order to recognize models as ENERGY STAR Most Efficient in 2025, additional data is needed for those not currently certified as ENERGY STAR Cold Climate. For these models, partners need to ensure they submit CVP, COP, and heating capacity at 5°F data to their certification body as soon as possible. The EPA anticipates recognition of these models in mid-January once the certification bodies have updated their systems to submit the additional data to the Agency. Currently recognized ENERGY

STAR Cold Climate models that meet the 2025 criteria will automatically be recognized on the EPA website early in the new year.

### **Final Version 6.2 Amendment to the ENERGY STAR ASHP Specification**

Comments on the proposed Version 6.2 amendment to the ENERGY STAR ASHP specification were largely supportive, with a few stakeholders recommending updates to better align the ENERGY STAR specification with tax credit eligibility. The EPA notes that the amendment, as proposed, will allow for implementation of the ENERGY STAR Most Efficient criteria above, while ensuring an approach that follows the Guiding Principles of the program and reflect requirements established on balance with the variations in heat pump technology.

Therefore, the EPA is finalizing the following changes in the Version 6.2 amendment, as proposed:

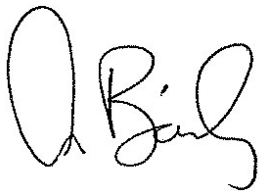
- EER2 requirement lowered to 11.0 for split systems and 10.0 for single package systems to accommodate variable speed units which have excellent seasonal performance and, on average, do not run at full capacity during peak cooling.
- The option to use the DOE CVP, when available, instead of the ENERGY STAR CVP, for verifying low ambient performance of cold climate heat pumps.
- Reporting requirement for COP at 5°F, Heating Capacity at 5°F/47°F, and CVP verification, where available, to facilitate identification of models eligible for ENERGY STAR Most Efficient.

Additionally, the EPA is clarifying in Section 3) E. of the specification that gas/electric package units need to meet all requirements for single package HPs, not just the cooling requirements, to reflect those indicated in Table 2. The Version 6.2 amendment will not impact any currently certified models. For more details on these changes, please see the [ENERGY STAR ASHP Specification Version 6](#) webpage.

This document, along with the ENERGY STAR Most Efficient 2025 ASHP criteria, can be found [here](#). It can also be found with the ENERGY STAR ASHP Version 6.2 amendment [here](#).

Thank you for your support of the ENERGY STAR program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ann Bailey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "A" and "B".

Ann Bailey, Director  
ENERGY STAR Product Labeling

Enclosures:

[ENERGY STAR Version 6.2 Central Air Conditioner and Heat Pump Specification](#)

[ENERGY STAR Most Efficient 2025 Recognition Criteria for Air Source Heat Pumps](#)

[ENERGY STAR Most Efficient 2025 & Specification Version 6.2 Air Source Heat Pumps Comment Response Matrix](#)