

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



OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

June 17, 2015

Dear Connected Thermostat Provider or Other Interested Party:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) welcomes your input on the attached proposed ENERGY STAR® Program Requirements for Connected Thermostats. Stakeholders are encouraged to submit comments on this proposal to EPA no later than **July 27, 2015**.

In developing an ENERGY STAR program for connected thermostats, EPA's goal is to highlight for consumers connected thermostat products – the combination of a service and a device -- that will help them save energy and money on their home heating and cooling costs. Several connected thermostat service providers have demonstrated great interest in this program and have worked closely with EPA and other stakeholders to develop metrics indicating savings from connected thermostats. EPA expects immediate participation in the product category from providers that currently have products in the market and for the number of participants, as well as product availability, to grow over time.

Participants in the ENERGY STAR products program sign a standard partnership agreement which references, among other things, a commitment to abide by the ENERGY STAR program requirements relevant to their product category. These program requirements consist of a set of partner commitments and product eligibility criteria (aka a product specification). For purposes of this proposal, EPA has adapted standard ENERGY STAR partner commitments in anticipation of a potential partnership with connected thermostat service providers and laid out a Draft 1 Version 1.0 specification for a connected thermostat product that consists of a device combined with a service.

This document represents a concrete outgrowth of discussions EPA has had with stakeholders over the past 18 months, including comments on the June 9, 2014 letter outlining a potential approach to evaluating connected thermostats based on aggregated data from the actual homes that use them. EPA offers it, even before the completion of metric development, in order to foster a longer and more thorough discussion of the administration of the program and the responsibilities of all parties involved. Note boxes throughout the document discuss specific issues relevant to the particular sections of the text.

The Draft 1 specification includes a few prerequisites of the hardware itself, and then anticipates requiring a level of realized energy savings as estimated using data from devices in the field. Statistical data from the population of users of the service would be submitted every six months, and would be specified by the ENERGY STAR Connected Thermostat Test Method, which is now in development. All documents relating to that development are available on [the connected](#)

[thermostat page](#). EPA is aiming to provide software code to service providers to calculate the metric(s). The energy savings levels will be proposed and vetted via subsequent draft specifications released alongside the continuing metric development process.

In light of comments expressed by some stakeholders that consumers may have privacy concerns with data from their home being used as part of the product certification process, EPA wished to make clear to the public that certification is based solely on aggregate data, from which no personally identifiable information can be derived, and intends to post a statement to this effect on our consumer-facing web site.

Comment Submittal

As with all ENERGY STAR specification development and revision efforts, EPA is committed to a transparent, open, and inclusive process with the intention of creating a high quality, stakeholder supported specification. As EPA moves forward with developing a program for ENERGY STAR Connected Thermostats, the exchange of ideas and information between EPA, industry, and other interested parties is critical to developing a specification that is meaningful in the marketplace and contributes to reductions of CO₂ emissions. As such, stakeholders are strongly encouraged to review and provide input on the attached Draft 1 specification and send written comments to ConnectedThermostats@energystar.gov by **July 27, 2015**. All comments will be posted to the ENERGY STAR Connected Thermostat development web site unless the submitter requests confidentiality.

Stakeholder Conference Call

EPA will host a stakeholder conference call to discuss the Draft 1 Version 1.0 Connected Thermostat specification on Friday, July 10 at 1PM Eastern. To register for this webinar, [please click here](#).

Thank you for taking the time to review this Draft 1 specification. If you have any questions regarding the Draft 1 proposal, please feel free to contact me at daken.abigail@epa.gov and 202-343-9375, or Doug Frazee, ICF International, at dfrazee@icfi.com and 443-333-9267.

Sincerely,



Abigail Daken

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Climate Protection Partnerships Division
ENERGY STAR Program