



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

OFFICE OF  
AIR AND RADIATION

June 23, 2021

Dear ENERGY STAR® Water Cooler Brand Owner or Other Interested Party:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is pleased to distribute the ENERGY STAR Version 3.0 Water cooler Final Specification. EPA would like to thank the many stakeholders who have devoted time and effort to informing this specification revision process. Version 3.0 requirements will be effective March 23, 2022.

This specification revision has the potential to deliver significant savings. Over its lifetime, a water cooler certifying to ENERGY STAR under this specification could save up to \$378 in energy costs. If all water coolers sold in the US met these criteria, the energy cost savings would grow to over \$250 million per year and 4.5 billion pounds of greenhouse gas emissions would be prevented.

This specification was developed through a process that included release of a discussion guide and three draft specifications, along with multiple stakeholder meetings. This final specification not only raises the bar on energy efficiency but includes updates that will help consumers select the best water cooler for their use. The Version 3.0 will differentiate conditioned storage hot and cold as well as hot, cook, and cold water coolers based on their capacity, creating distinct categories for high-traffic locations like offices or commercial spaces and low-capacity environments like homes or small offices. The specification also adds reporting of energy consumption during and after hot and cold water draws, giving a more complete picture of a product's energy consumption.

Stakeholder comments, previous drafts of the specification, and related materials are available on EPA's ENERGY STAR website at [www.energystar.gov/specifications](http://www.energystar.gov/specifications). Click on the "View the Version 3.0 Development Process" link for Water Coolers.

### **Timeline and Next Steps**

EPA shares partners' desire for a smooth transition from one ENERGY STAR specification to the next, so that consumers can expect ENERGY STAR labeled products to fully meet the latest requirements upon their effective date. With this in mind, EPA has established the following timeline:

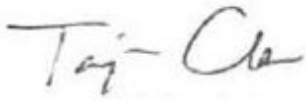
- Effective immediately, manufacturers may elect to have their Certification Body (CB) certify their eligible products to the Version 3.0 requirements.
- As of October 13, 2021, CBs will be instructed to stop certifying new product submittals to Version 2.0. Note that existing certifications will remain valid for purposes of ENERGY STAR certification until March 23, 2022.
- Any water cooler manufactured as of March 23, 2022, must meet Version 3.0 requirements to bear the ENERGY STAR mark. All certifications of products to the Version 2.0 specification will be invalid for purposes of ENERGY STAR certification and the product finder will only include models certified to Version 3.0. After March 23, 2022, products placed under new contracts as ENERGY STAR should be certified to the Version 3.0 specification.

ENERGY STAR partnership as a manufacturer is limited to organizations that own and/or license a brand name under which they sell eligible products in the United States and/or Canada. Partnership is not available to original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) that do not sell directly to consumers or end users. OEMs may certify products on behalf of the ENERGY STAR brand owners/licensees; however, the brand owner must be the ENERGY STAR partner associated directly with the certified product models, since only partners are authorized to use the ENERGY STAR certification mark.

EPA thanks the many stakeholders who provided feedback during the specification revision process and looks forward to working with you as you certify and market your energy-efficient water coolers. Please direct any specific questions to Tanja Crk, EPA, at [Crk.Tanja@epa.gov](mailto:Crk.Tanja@epa.gov) or 202-566-1037, and Julia Hegarty, ICF, at [julia.hegarty@icf.com](mailto:julia.hegarty@icf.com) or 202-862-1163.

Thank you for your continued support of the ENERGY STAR program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tanja Crk". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Tanja Crk, Product Manager  
ENERGY STAR Commercial Food Service, Vending, and Water Coolers

Enclosures:

[ENERGY STAR Version 3.0 Water Cooler Final Specification](#)

[ENERGY STAR Version 3.0 Water Cooler Final Data Package](#)

[ENERGY STAR Version 3.0 Water Cooler Final Draft Comment Response Matrix](#)