



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

OFFICE OF  
AIR AND RADIATION

February 22, 2021

Dear ENERGY STAR® Partners and other Stakeholders:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is pleased to announce the final recognition criteria for Dishwashers for ENERGY STAR Most Efficient 2021 and to inform stakeholders that televisions will not be recognized as ENERGY STAR Most Efficient in 2021. This letter outlines the final criteria for dishwashers and summarizes EPA's rationale with regard to TVs.

Please note that the criteria for 13 other product categories, which were finalized on September 2, 2020, are unchanged, and they and the dishwasher criteria can be found at [www.energystar.gov/moste efficient](http://www.energystar.gov/moste efficient).

**ENERGY STAR Most Efficient 2021 Dishwasher Recognition Criteria**

The Final 2021 Most Efficient criteria for dishwashers require an annual energy use of  $\leq 240$  kWh/yr and water consumption of  $\leq 3.2$  gallons per cycle for standard-sized models. Products must also meet a per cycle Cleaning Index of a minimum of 70 for each test cycle (heavy, medium, and light).

Dishwashers that meet the 2021 criteria will deliver 67 kWh/yr in annual savings, equivalent to 22% above the Federal Minimum and 387 gal/yr in annual water savings, 36% over the Federal Minimum, as compared to a conventional product.

EPA received two sets of comments on the dishwasher proposal. One commenter provided support for the proposed criteria for dishwashers for 2021, stating that the rationale EPA provided for both products is consistent with their understanding of ENERGY STAR Most Efficient.

A second commenter proposed that EPA discontinue recognition of dishwashers as ENERGY STAR Most Efficient and expressed concern with the abbreviated process used to develop Most Efficient criteria. Additionally, this commenter stated its opposition to the cleaning performance criteria and reporting for Most Efficient dishwashers because of its concern with repeatability and reproducibility of the cleaning performance test procedure.

ENERGY STAR Most Efficient identifies and advances cutting-edge efficiency among products otherwise eligible for the ENERGY STAR label. Annual reviews and revisions help to ensure that ENERGY STAR Most Efficient criteria stay current, consistent with the expectations of early-adopters, which are the intended audience.

In response to concern regarding the inclusion of minimum cleaning criteria, EPA notes that as a voluntary program, ENERGY STAR is successful only as long as consumers have a positive association with the label. On occasion, requirements are added to prevent trade-offs between efficiency and performance. The need to ensure performance takes on added significance in context of ENERGY STAR Most Efficient where the levels are more stringent. In regard to concerns relating to the cleaning performance test procedure, EPA and DOE view the test procedure as having acceptable repeatability and reproducibility. EPA has seen a growth in the number of Most Efficient dishwasher models from 2019 to 2020 – from 101 to 116 models, demonstrating partner interest in this category. As such, EPA will maintain the cleaning performance minimum for Most Efficient criteria for dishwashers.

**Pausing ENERGY STAR Most Efficient Criteria for TVs in 2021**

EPA proposed that TVs not be recognized as ENERGY STAR Most Efficient in 2021. EPA received one set of comments supporting this decision and none arguing against it. EPA recently launched the Version 9.0 specification development process which proposes use of performance-based criteria to encourage more efficient product design through the adoption of efficient components and energy saving features. The Version 9.0 varies significantly from the Version 8.0 approach, which was the basis for the Most Efficient criteria since 2019. As a result of this proposed deviation from the current specification, and since these Version 9.0 criteria are not yet complete, EPA will not recognize TVs as Most Efficient in 2021.

### **ENERGY STAR Most Efficient 2021 Recognition**

ENERGY STAR certified products meeting ENERGY STAR Most Efficient 2021 requirements are highlighted at [www.energystar.gov/moste efficient](http://www.energystar.gov/moste efficient). EPA will follow this letter with distribution of the 2021 ENERGY STAR Most Efficient designation to brand owners of eligible products. As a reminder, usage guidelines are available on the [ENERGY STAR Most Efficient 2021 Criteria](#) page. As new products are certified, EPA will invite partners to augment their product listing with the following:

- **A product image.** Product images can be in any common format (jpg, png, or gif), should include only one product – do not include other people and objects – be a minimum of 250 pixels wide, and for best results, be on a single-color background, preferably white;
- **A product description** for use on the web page (i.e., key features and functionalities). The first 50 words will be displayed beside the product photo on the web page; additional text will link to a separate web page; and
- **The name of retail stores or online distributors** where the product is available for consumer purchase. This information helps provide price and store location information to consumers on the web page.

To ensure the greatest utility of the ENERGY STAR Most Efficient webpage to consumers, EPA will only highlight products that are currently available for sale in the U.S. As such, EPA reminds partners that it is critical that they keep product availability information with their Certification Bodies current.

The ENERGY STAR Most Efficient 2021 designation is intended for use at point-of-sale on point-of-purchase materials, product literature, and websites. It may not be factory-applied to products or product packaging. Failure to abide by these guidelines may result in loss of recognition. EPA will highlight recognized products on the ENERGY STAR Most Efficient 2021 web page through December 31, 2021.



We look forward to working with you to market ENERGY STAR Most Efficient products in 2021. Please e-mail [moste efficient@energystar.gov](mailto:moste efficient@energystar.gov) with any questions. Thank you for your support of the ENERGY STAR program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. B. G." or similar.

Ann Bailey, Director  
ENERGY STAR Product Labeling