

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



OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

September 15, 2015

Dear ENERGY STAR® Brand Owner or Other Interested Party:

Following review of several technologies submitted for nomination, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is pleased to announce that Low Global Warming Potential (GWP) Refrigerant Systems has been chosen as the 2016 ENERGY STAR Emerging Technology Award category. Over the next few months, EPA will work with stakeholders to create performance criteria recognizing the best available refrigerant systems that help to protect the environment while offering the consumer additional energy savings.

Overview of the Emerging Technology Award

Launched in 2011, the ENERGY STAR Emerging Technology Award raises the profile of innovative technologies that have the potential to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions once they are more widely adopted. The Award recognizes promising technologies that may not yet meet key principles associated with categories eligible for the ENERGY STAR label (e.g., broadly available, cost effective to the consumer) or may be relatively more complex to properly install and operate. For more information on the Award visit www.energystar.gov/emergingtech.

In many cases, low GWP refrigerants have a dual benefit in that they also improve product efficiency. Recently, EPA has seen broader availability of these refrigerants introduced across a range of residential and commercial equipment and recognized by EPA's Significant New Alternatives Policy (SNAP) Program. In the draft criteria attached, we propose recognizing Low GWP Refrigerant Systems, the combination of hardware and refrigerants, which both increase energy efficiency and utilize alternative refrigerants.

Draft Criteria for Review

Interested stakeholders are encouraged to provide feedback on the proposed recognition criteria to emergingtech@energystar.gov by **October 6, 2015**. Depending on the comments received, EPA may release a subsequent draft for stakeholder review prior to finalizing the criteria, tentatively scheduled for November-December 2015. Once they are final, manufacturers of equipment that meet the Award criteria will be able to submit information and data to EPA for review. Upon EPA approval, manufacturers will be able to use the ENERGY STAR Emerging Technology Award designation to promote the product.

If you have any questions about the Award or the criteria development process, please contact me at (202) 343-9408 and banwell.peter@epa.gov or Rebecca Duff, ICF International, at (434) 202-7875 and rebecca.duff@icfi.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Banwell', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Peter Banwell
ENERGY STAR Program

Enclosure:
Draft Criteria: Low GWP Refrigerant Systems