**Award Description:**

The Partner of the Year award recognizes certified Home Energy Rater, Accredited Rating Provider, and Accredited Quality Assurance Provider partners that have demonstrated excellence and innovation with providing builders and/or Raters in expanding the ENERGY STAR certified homes program.

**Applicant Eligibility:**

**To be eligible to submit an application, each applicant must have:**

* Maintained active ENERGY STAR partnership in good standing for at least one full year;
* Verified at least 100 ENERGY STAR certified homes during 2017 (as either a Home Energy Rater, Accredited Rating Provider, or Quality Assurance Provider);
* Good standing with EPA regarding compliance with all applicable regulations. (Please note that all applicants will undergo enforcement compliance screenings); and
* Good standing with the Residential Energy Services Network (RESNET) (e.g., no active or pending disciplinary actions, probations, or suspensions).

**Application Instructions:**

**Please review all instructions carefully. Changes from previous applications have been made.**

See *General Instructions for All Applicants* at[www.energystar.gov/awards](http://www.energystar.gov/awards)

**Submitting Your Award Application:**

**Submit your completed application and electronic copies of supporting materials** through your “My ENERGY STAR Account” ([www.energystar.gov/mesa](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Cwittenberga%5CDocuments%5CMY%20CARDS%5CAwards%5C2018%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CINetCache%5Cbookerc%5CDownloads%5Cwww.energystar.gov%5Cmesa)). When possible, please consolidate supporting materials into one electronic file. Any materials submitted may be used by EPA in promotion of the ENERGY STAR program and will not be returned to applicants.

**Selection of Award Winners:**

Each applicationwill be assigned to one of the following categories:

1. Home Energy Rater
2. Accredited Rating Provider
3. Accredited Quality Assurance Provider

Accredited Providers and Home Energy Raters that have either received Sustained Excellence in past years or demonstrated continuous commitment to excellence by winning consecutive ENERGY STAR Partner of the Year Awards are eligible to receive a Sustained Excellence award in 2018.

**Company Name:**

**Mailing Address:**

**ENERGY STAR Contact:**

**Phone Number:**

**E-mail Address:**

**Company Web Site:**

**ENERGY STAR Web Page(s):**

**Please indicate your ENERGY STAR Provider/Rater category (select only one)**:

­­ **Home Energy Rater**

 **Accredited Rating Provider**

**Accredited Quality Assurance Provider**

**Indicate the percentage of homes that your organization rated/processed in 2017 that were ENERGY STAR certified: \_\_\_\_\_\_ %**

**Executive Summary**

**New this year: entered through your online MESA account awards application form.**

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Through your online MESA account awards application form, enter a brief description of your organization and 6-10 bullet points showcasing your organization’s ENERGY STAR achievements in the corresponding fields. The content you enter will serve as the Executive Summary for your application, and if you earn an award, it will help populate the event script and slideshow, as well as the online [*Profiles in Leadership*](https://www.energystar.gov/about/2017_energy_star_award_winners). Please see Page 3 of the 2018 ENERGY STAR Awards General Instructions to prepare this content.

**Responses to Application Evaluation Criteria:**

1. **Recruitment (Maximum of 40 points):**

Please describe how your organization has directly contributed to growth in the number of builders and/or Home Energy Raters participating in the ENERGY STAR program in your service area(s). Please include information such as the number of builders/Raters recruited and ENERGY STAR certified homes that they produced in the past year or are projected to produce in the future.

1. **Technical Support (Maximum of 30 points):**

Please describe what types of support your organization provided to builders and Raters in 2017. This may include efforts to identify cost effective solutions to achieve greater energy efficiency, provide technical training to builders and/or Raters, assisting builders to incorporate emerging technologies and advanced building practices, or other value added services.

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1. **Innovation (Maximum of 20 points):**

Please describe any innovative approaches that your organization took in working with builders and/or Raters to implement their ENERGY STAR certified homes programs (e.g., customer management systems, verification processes, unique quality assurance approaches) in 2017.

1. **Marketing and Sales Support (Maximum of 10 points):**

Please describe any ENERGY STAR-related marketing and sales support that your organization provided to builders and/or Raters in 2017. This may include activities designed to increase consumer awareness/demand for ENERGY STAR certified homes or those designed to increase the knowledge and ability of builder sales agents and/or real estate professionals to effectively sell the features and value of ENERGY STAR certified homes. Please include specific examples.

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