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



OFFICE OF AIR AND
RADIATION

April 25, 2023

Dear ENERGY STAR® Brand Owner or Other Interested Party:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is pleased to announce the selection of Commercial or Industrial Heat Pump Dryers as a 2023 ENERGY STAR Emerging Technology Award category. EPA is proposing performance criteria for these products with the goal of recognizing a promising commercial heat pump dryer technology that offers purchasers new ways to save energy and protect the environment.

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 more widely adopted. The annual award recognizes promising technologies that may not yet meet key principles associated with product categories eligible for the ENERGY STAR label (e.g., those that are broadly available, cost effective to the consumer). As products become more mainstream, award categories may become candidates for ENERGY STAR specification development. For more information on the Award, visit www.energystar.gov/emergingtech.

Technology Overview – Commercial or Industrial Heat Pump Dryers

Heat pump dryers utilizing variable speed compressors have the potential to deliver dramatic energy improvements to commonly used commercial and industrial product categories. The heat pump is used to significantly increase the efficiency of the heating cycle, and, when paired with a variable speed compressor, its performance is maximized by maintaining ideal dryer drum temperature and humidity. In addition to the efficiency benefits, another compelling factor in selecting this product category is that commercial and industrial dryers are not subject to minimum efficiency standards, so the savings potential is very high. Initial estimates indicate that this new heat pump technology could bring up to 50% energy savings without substantial increases in drying time performance.

Draft Criteria for Review

Interested stakeholders are encouraged to provide feedback on the [proposed recognition criteria](#) to emergingtech@energystar.gov by **May 16, 2023**. Depending on the comments received, EPA may finalize the criteria or release a subsequent draft for additional stakeholder review. Once final, manufacturers of commercial or industrial heat pump dryers that meet the award criteria will be able to submit documentation and data to EPA for review. Upon EPA approval, manufacturers will be able to use the ENERGY STAR Emerging Technology Award logo to promote the product.

If you have any questions about the Award or the criteria development process, please contact me, Peter Banwell, at banwell.peter@epa.gov or emergingtech@energystar.gov.

Best Regards,



Peter Banwell
ENERGY STAR Program

Enclosures:
[Draft Criteria for Commercial or Industrial Heat Pump Dryers](#)

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