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



OFFICE OF AIR AND  
RADIATION

March 11, 2019

Dear ENERGY STAR® Brand Owner or Other Interested Party:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is pleased to release the final ENERGY STAR Emerging Technology Award criteria for Residential Air-to-Water Heat Pumps for 2019 and extend the recognition opportunity for Room Air Conditioners with Efficient Variable Output (EVO).

In response to input from stakeholders, the initial draft criteria for Residential Air-to-Water Heat Pumps have been revised as follows:

- In response to a stakeholder noting that some air-to-water heat pumps are not capable of providing space cooling, EPA has removed the requirement that systems must be able to provide space cooling to be eligible for the Award.
- Stakeholders requested that EPA report capacity at the various testing conditions because capacity may vary, along with the heating coefficient of performance. In the final criteria, EPA requires that capacity (in BTUs) be reported for each testing condition.
- Two stakeholders noted that refrigerant type is an important characteristic for comparing products. As a result, EPA is requiring that the refrigerant type be reported so it can be shared on lists of Award-winning products.

In additional comments, a stakeholder pointed out that some manufacturers are currently testing products to the European Heat Pump Association's Testing Regulation for Air-to-Water Heat Pumps and requested that EPA allow testing to this standard or the currently referenced AHRI 550/590 standard. EPA determined that lacking a clear methodology for comparing the results of the two test methods no translation of results could be made, so at this time the criteria will exclusively reference the AHRI method.

All documents associated with the Air-to-Water Heat Pumps Award can be found on the ENERGY STAR Emerging Technology for Industry Stakeholders [webpage](#).

**Award Application Process**

Manufacturers with products that meet the Award criteria may immediately begin submitting the necessary documentation to [emergingtech@energystar.gov](mailto:emergingtech@energystar.gov) for EPA review. Award-winning products will be recognized upon determination that all Award criteria have been satisfied. Note that multiple products are eligible for the Award. All recognized, Award-winning products will be listed on [energystar.gov](http://energystar.gov) on the list of ENERGY STAR Emerging Technology Award winners for Air-to-Water Heat Pumps.

**2018 Room Air Conditioners with Efficient Variable Output (EVO) Category**

This letter also serves as notice that EPA is extending recognition of the 2018 Award category – EVO-Capable Room Air Conditioners – into 2019. EPA has updated the required test method to reference a DOE-approved

test procedure waiver and adjusted the energy-efficiency criteria with the capacity of the units to now require a model to outperform the U.S. DOE Federal Minimum Combined Energy Efficiency Ratio by at least:

- 35% for models with a capacity greater than or equal to 14,000 BTU/hour
- 25% for models with a capacity less than 14,000 BTU/hour

This update ensures alignment with DOE test methods, reducing the test burden for applicants, and simplifies the testing for the 2019 Award. Please see [www.energystar.gov/emergingtech](http://www.energystar.gov/emergingtech) for Award criteria and instructions for new submissions.

If you have any questions about the Award, the criteria development process, or marketing and promotion of Award-winning products, please contact me, Peter Banwell, at [banwell.peter@epa.gov](mailto:banwell.peter@epa.gov) and (202) 343-9408, or Emmy Feldman at [emmy.feldman@icf.com](mailto:emmy.feldman@icf.com) and (202) 862-1145.

Sincerely,



Peter Banwell  
ENERGY STAR Program

Enclosures:

[Final Criteria for Air-to-Water Heat Pumps](#)

For more information, visit: [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov)

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