

# ENERGY STAR® SHEMS NEWS

Smart Home Energy Management Systems

February 2021 | Volume 3



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## ENERGY STAR SHEMS Updates

Since releasing the ENERGY STAR specification for Smart Home Energy Management Systems (SHEMS), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) received valuable feedback leading the team to propose further clarification and flexibility through an amendment, Version 1.1. The changes allow service providers that prefer to control lighting loads through **smart switches** to participate, enabling additional device and system design options to be eligible for the ENERGY STAR certification. SHEMS meeting the original requirements (published in September 2019) will continue to be eligible for certification.

For more information you can review the [Version 1.1 announcement](#).

Learn about certifying a SHEMS package using the [ENERGY STAR SHEMS Checklist](#) or check out the SHEMS for Partners [page](#).

## SHEMS RESOURCES

- [Past Webinars](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Key Product Criteria](#)
- [Version 1.0 specification](#)

### Certification Bodies

- [UL Verification Services: Joseph Getner, Joseph.W.Getner@ul.com](#)

## News You Can Use



### Smart Home Energy Solutions Gain Traction With Users

According to Parks Associates data, 11% of US broadband households own at least one smart light bulb and 9% own a smart plug or adapter module. This reflects an additional 3% of US broadband households adopting each device type since 2018.

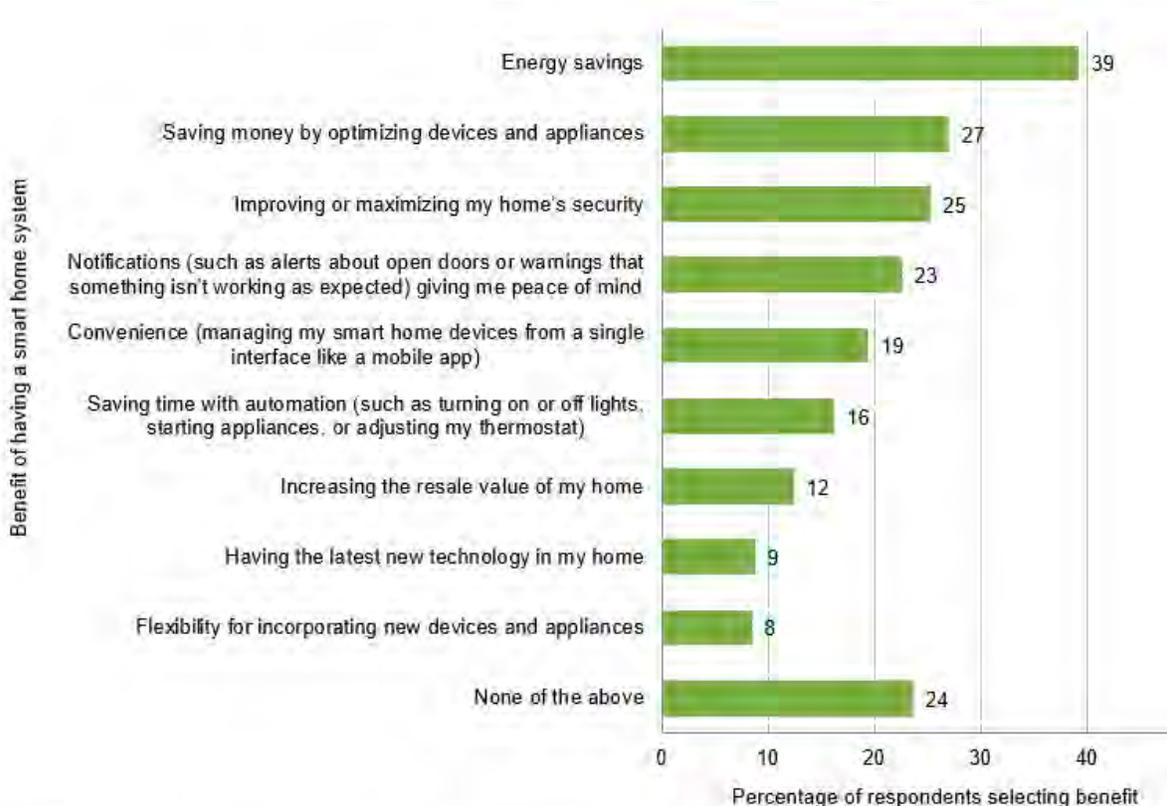
[Read more](#)

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### Energy Management Drives Smart Home Appeal

In a recent E Source consumer survey, **saving energy and money** through optimization emerged as the **top two most appealing** benefits of smart home systems (Figure 1). The survey also found that incentives such as rebates may be more effective than online marketplaces and other strategies in encouraging customers to purchase smart home technology from their energy utility. Members of the E Source Technology Assessment Service can find many more details in the new report [US utility customers' preferences for smart home technologies](#).

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**Base:** All US respondents (n = 2,001). **Question S2\_5:** Whether or not you currently have a smart home system, which of the following benefits of having one are most appealing to you? Select up to three. **Note:** "Other" not shown as it accounted for less than 1% of respondents.  
 © E Source (2020 Smart Home Consumer Survey)

### Figure 1: Most appealing benefits of smart home systems

Source: E Source. Survey respondents showed a clear preference for energy savings when considering benefits from smart home systems. Utilities are ideally suited to help customers realize these benefits.

According to E Source DSMdat (a database of over 6,000 utility demand side management and renewable energy programs throughout North America), there are more than 20 utilities currently offering incentives for customers to acquire smart home technology and systems (excluding programs that offer rebates for individual devices like smart thermostats), and E Source expects that number to increase once ENERGY STAR-qualified SHEMS become available on the market and energy and demand savings are demonstrated. Finally, more than 50 utilities currently have online marketplaces where they're promoting and selling smart devices, and many of those utilities may also be likely to consider creating rebates or incentives for ENERGY STAR-qualified SHEMS going forward to promote adoption. Contact Essie Snell at [essie\\_snell@esource.com](mailto:essie_snell@esource.com) for more information on E Source's smart home research.

## ENERGY STAR SHEMS On The (Virtual) Road

### Upcoming

Save the date! Taylor Jantz-Sell, U.S. EPA, will be featured in an Executive Spotlight as part of the [Parks Associates 2021 Smart Energy Summit](#). The Q&A is part of the "Energy Management Platforms: Accelerating Growth" track and will take place on

### Past

The [2020 ENERGY STAR Products Partner Meeting](#) was held virtually from October 27-29 and featured dedicated SHEMS content in two sessions:

February 24, 2021 at 12:45pm ET.



- **SHEMS Pilots Update:** The latest updates from utilities and supporting service providers that are conducting pilots and programs that intersect with the ENERGY STAR smart home energy management systems specification. Speakers discussed key insights on automated energy savings and consumer engagement and education from pilots across the country. Insights touched on segmentation from low income to multi-family and covered successful leveraging of partnerships and utility marketplaces.
- **SHEMS Pitch Party:** Looking for innovative new ideas in the smart home energy management space? Review this series of short pitches covering topics from integration with distributed energy resources to messaging strategies for security and consumer privacy. Speakers included service providers working toward ENERGY STAR certification, device manufacturers, and researchers.

## Your Smart Home System May Be Closer To An ENERGY STAR SHEMS than you think!

If you operate a smart home system and can answer “yes” to all ten questions below you’re probably ready to start certifying your smart home system! Just review the [current specification](#) and [data collection template](#) to see all the detailed requirements and contact an ENERGY STAR recognized certification body to get started! If you have any questions, contact [smarthomesystems@energystar.gov](mailto:smarthomesystems@energystar.gov). Please note that the checklist is based on the proposed Version 1.1 specification.

### Can Your System . . .

- Control an [ENERGY STAR certified Smart Thermostat](#)?
- Control either a smart light switch (standby power  $\leq 0.5$  W) that can report energy, or an ENERGY STAR certified smart lighting product?
- Connect to a smart plug, outlet, power strip, home energy monitor, smart breaker panel, or other device (standby power  $\leq 1.0$  W) that controls miscellaneous loads or reports circuit-level energy use data?
- Control a smart water heater add-on controller?
- Detect room, apartment, or home occupancy based on a non-battery-powered occupancy sensor (may be integrated in other devices) or with two battery operated occupancy detectors?
- Provide energy saving tips?
- Report estimated or actual energy use of connected devices in a dwelling to the user?

- Perform a demand response event on at least one smart device?
- Allow a user to integrate with a utility time of use program?
- Aggregate 6 months of [system data](#) from  $\geq 30$  installations with devices from questions 1-3?

Looking forward to helping our future get energy smart together! Have SHERMS insights to share from a pilot or research? Please contact [SmartHomeSystems@energystar.gov](mailto:SmartHomeSystems@energystar.gov) or Taylor Jantz Sell at [jantz\\_sell.taylor@epa.gov](mailto:jantz_sell.taylor@epa.gov).

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