



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

OFFICE OF  
AIR AND RADIATION

June 29, 2021

Dear ENERGY STAR® Smart Thermostat Partner or Other Interested Party:

With this letter, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) welcomes your input on the enclosed [ENERGY STAR Version 2.0 Smart Thermostats Discussion Guide](#) prior to developing and releasing a Draft Version 2.0 Specification. EPA will also host a webinar on July 26, 2021, to seek input from stakeholders on topics outlined below. Please submit your feedback and any relevant data to [connectedthermostats@energystar.gov](mailto:connectedthermostats@energystar.gov) by August 09, 2021.

### **Background**

The ENERGY STAR program helps businesses and individuals save money and protect the environment by identifying products with superior energy efficiency. EPA monitors market and technology developments and reviews specifications regularly, looking for opportunities to recognize increased energy savings. EPA sees an opportunity to improve the ENERGY STAR Connected (Smart) Thermostat specification through updates and expand scope to realize additional energy savings.

### **Discussion Guide Summary**

The Discussion Guide highlights multiple topics for further discussion which are summarized below. More details regarding these topics as well as specific questions are included in the Discussion Guide.

- **Updated terminology:** EPA believes that 'Smart Thermostats' is a consumer recognized classification and hence proposes to begin referring to the product category as ENERGY STAR Smart Thermostats with all stakeholders.
- **Revisions to the Specification Metrics:** EPA is evaluating the opportunity to improve the submission-to-submission stability of metrics along with improving the correlation between metrics and energy savings through metered data. In addition, EPA is considering a more even weighting across the different climate zones which would yield a metric more relevant to percent savings for every homeowner in the US.
- **Specification criteria changes:** EPA is considering updating the demand response requirements and seeks information on product families to ensure that ENERGY STAR can distinguish more efficient models for a range of purchasers. EPA is also interested in understanding the impact of broadband connectivity on savings.
- **Expansion and clarification of scope:** EPA seeks feedback on the viability of expanding the scope of the ENERGY STAR specification to include additional product types. EPA also seeks to clarify the scope during the development of Version 2.0 such that all partners are clear on product types covered by this specification.
- **Software updates:** Provided with this Discussion Guide is a list of major software updates. Stakeholders are requested to test the software on their data, review documentation and provide feedback on the same.

### **Comment Submittal**

Stakeholders are encouraged to provide written comments for EPA consideration to [connectedthermostats@energystar.gov](mailto:connectedthermostats@energystar.gov) by August 09, 2021. All comments will be posted to the [ENERGY STAR Smart Thermostats Product Development website](#) unless the submitter requests otherwise.

**Stakeholder Meeting**

EPA will host a stakeholder webinar on July 26, 2021 from 1 to 3 pm EST to review the Discussion Guide and address initial stakeholder comments and questions. Stakeholders interested in participating in this discussion should [register here](#) by July 25, 2021.

Please direct any questions specific to the connected criteria to Abigail Daken at EPA, [Daken.Abigail@epa.gov](mailto:Daken.Abigail@epa.gov), or 202-343-9375, Abhishek Jathar at ICF, [Abhishek.Jathar@icf.com](mailto:Abhishek.Jathar@icf.com) or 202-862-1203.

Thank you for your continued support of the ENERGY STAR program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Abigail Daken".

Abigail Daken  
EPA Product Manager, ENERGY STAR for HVAC and Connected

Enclosures:  
[ENERGY STAR Version 2.0 Smart Thermostat Discussion Guide](#)