Re: ecobee comments on Final Draft Version 6.0 ENERGY STAR® Central Air Conditioner and Heat Pump (CAC/HP) specification  
Date: 11/19/2020

ecobee thanks the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for the opportunity to comment on the Final Draft of Version 6.0 of the ENERGY STAR® Central Air Conditioner and Heat Pump (CAC/HP) specification. ecobee is submitting comments as a leading developer of HVAC controls.

ecobee recommends the following addition to the final draft, underlined in bold below:

DR Communications Protocols

The CCS shall meet the communication and equipment performance standards for CTA318 2045-A or OpenADR 2.0b, or both or meet the DR communication protocols listed in the ENERGY STAR® Connected Thermostat specification.

ecobee believes there is value in providing a consistent framework for grid communications and open access between the ENERGY STAR® Central Air Conditioner and Heat Pump (CAC/HP) specification and the ENERGY STAR® Connected Thermostat specification. Specifically, the ENERGY STAR® Connected Thermostat specification requires:

a. Grid Communications – The CT product shall include a communication link that facilitates the use of open standards, as defined in this specification, for all communication layers to enable DR functionality. Note: CT products that enable direct, on-premises, open-standards based interconnection are preferred, but alternative approaches, where open-standards connectivity is enabled only with use of off-premise services, are also acceptable.

b. Open Access – To enable interconnection with the CT product over the communication link, an interface specification, application programming interface (API) or similar documentation shall be made available that, at a minimum, enables DR functionality. Note: While EPA encourages broad availability of the interface spec or API, CT service providers may elect to limit dissemination of these documents to certified/qualified developers, integration partners and the like.

ecobee encourages EPA to make this addition to the final specification to enable greater flexibility.

Thank you for taking these comments into consideration.

Tamara Dzubay
Senior Manager, Regulatory Affairs
ecobee