

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



OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

February 27, 2014

Dear ENERGY STAR Battery Charging System (BCS) Manufacturers and Other Interested Parties:

The purpose of this letter is to inform stakeholders of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) final decision to sunset the ENERGY STAR specification for Battery Charging System (BCS) products effective December 31, 2014.

On February 3, 2014, the U.S. Department of Energy released the Final Rule on Energy Conservation Standards for External Power Supplies, in which DOE established new efficiency standards for external power supplies but deferred the setting of battery charging standards stating, "To avoid unnecessary disruptions to the market, provide some level of consistency and stability to affected products, and to further evaluate the impacts associated with the California-based standards, DOE is deferring the setting of battery charger standards at this time." This decision ensures that the California Energy Commission BCS requirements, which are more stringent than the current ENERGY STAR BCS levels and are now being adopted by other states, will remain a back-stop for efficiency in BCS products.

EPA evaluated comments received in response to the original sunset proposal distributed on November 22, 2013, and has modified the timeline below to allow additional flexibility for partners as they work through the sunset process. EPA will also post the final ENERGY STAR qualified product list on the ENERGY STAR website through at least December 2015, as requested by stakeholders. While some partners requested a February 2015 sunset date, EPA notes that the December 2014 sunset provides a longer than typical transition for ENERGY STAR sunsets, reflects more than a year from EPA's initial proposal to sunset, and also aligns with the end of the calendar year, simplifying reporting and program administration responsibilities. Finally, EPA was asked to drop or extend beyond the sunset date a deadline for discontinuing production of new promotional materials for BCS products that use the ENERGY STAR. EPA sees this deadline for ceasing the production of new materials using the ENERGY STAR mark as an important step in a transition designed to minimize the potential for consumer confusion and has maintained a deadline.

Important dates and milestones associated with implementing the sunset process are provided below:

- ENERGY STAR certified BCS products and their manufacturers/brand owners will continue to be recognized at www.energystar.gov until December 30, 2014.
- No new Partnership Agreements for the BCS program will be accepted by EPA as of February 27, 2014.
- No new certified product information for the BCS program will be accepted by EPA as of May 31, 2014.
- No new promotional materials for BCS products (printed and electronic) that use the ENERGY STAR mark may be produced after July 31, 2014. Manufacturers are permitted to use up existing printed material, including packaging, in order to minimize waste.
- Manufacturers must stop using the ENERGY STAR name and ENERGY STAR mark in association with all BCS products manufactured on or after December 30, 2014.
- To minimize the cost of labeling changes and be in compliance by December 30, 2014, manufacturers of BCS products are encouraged to remove ENERGY STAR references on Web sites or in other collateral materials as these materials are reprinted or changed in the coming months.

Partners who have any questions should contact batterychargers@energystar.gov.

In closing, EPA would like to reiterate that it appreciates the efforts of BCS product partners to advance a cleaner environment through the ENERGY STAR Program and applauds your success in moving the market towards greater energy efficiency. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ann Bailey". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Ann Bailey, Chief
ENERGY STAR Labeling Branch