

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



OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

March 10, 2014

Dear Commercial Coffee Brewer Manufacturer or Other Interested Party:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is launching the development of an ENERGY STAR[®] specification for commercial coffee brewers. This letter provides background on the ENERGY STAR program, initiates a data collection effort for commercial coffee brewers, and outlines EPA's goals and next steps for this specification development effort.

Coffee brewers are an energy consuming plug-load found in virtually every commercial and institutional establishment, regardless of whether or not a commercial kitchen is present. While the energy savings of individual models may be minimal, the total aggregate energy savings and wide distribution across many types of operations make coffee brewers a good candidate for the ENERGY STAR program with significant energy savings potential. There also appears to be a variety of technologies which have the potential to reduce the energy consumption of models including improved insulation, energy saving and power management features.

Background

ENERGY STAR is a voluntary program that holds 18,000 private and public sector partnerships. More than 2,000 manufacturers currently participate in the program, qualifying over 40,000 product models across more than 70 product categories, including 8 commercial food service (CFS) products. (A complete list of ENERGY STAR products can be found at www.energystar.gov). ENERGY STAR is an influential brand that is recognized by over 85% of Americans nationwide. Products that earn the ENERGY STAR prevent greenhouse gas emissions by meeting strict energy efficiency guidelines. Manufacturers that qualify their products to meet ENERGY STAR requirements may use the label as a tool to educate their customers about the enhanced value of these products.

The ENERGY STAR program benefits partners by benefitting their customers. The program is designed to encourage the manufacture, purchase, and use of energy efficient products to help protect the environment. Last year alone, with the help of ENERGY STAR, Americans prevented 254 million metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions and saved more than \$26 billion on their energy bills.

Consistent with the program's commitment to helping consumers save money and reduce their environmental impact, EPA seeks to expand the ENERGY STAR program as new opportunities arise. EPA recently evaluated commercial coffee brewers as a potential product category for inclusion in the ENERGY STAR program. This effort included a review of the market and an analysis of some preliminary test results that suggest a differentiation in energy performance among a small sample of different brewers. EPA's initial analysis indicates that there is a savings potential associated with differentiating more efficient coffee brewers. EPA asks for your assistance in expanding the analysis to understand the energy performance of a wider range of brewers.

Data Assembly Effort

As with every ENERGY STAR specification development effort, it is critical that EPA have a robust data set of a variety of products that represents the majority of the U.S. market. EPA uses this data to identify potential energy savings and to set performance criteria that differentiate the high efficiency products from conventional products. A key attribute needed in order to move forward with an ENERGY STAR specification is using a test procedure which can adequately measure the energy use of the product in a fair and repeatable manner.

For commercial coffee brewers, EPA encourages all manufacturers to provide test data based on the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) F2990-12 Standard Test Method for Commercial Coffee Brewers. This test method is used to evaluate energy consumption along with brewing and holding (temperature) performance. For additional information regarding the scope of the test method or other specification details, refer to ASTM F2988-12 Standard Specification for Commercial Coffee Brewers.

Once the products have undergone testing, EPA requests that manufacturers share the performance data by emailing it to commercialfoodservice@energystar.gov. EPA also welcomes the results of any previously conducted tests with the relevant test procedure noted. EPA requests that all data for consideration be shared by **May 9, 2014**. For your convenience, a data submission template is attached.

EPA is also interested in learning more about high pressure espresso coffee machines and the opportunity to include them in this product specification. While the ASTM test method does not cover these products, EPA is interested in learning more of existing test methods that would capture power consumption in ready-to-brew (standby), energy save, and other modes of these products.

Please note that manufacturer-provided test data used by EPA to determine ENERGY STAR performance levels does not need to be third-party certified. However, as with all ENERGY STAR product categories, third-party certification is required for ENERGY STAR certification once a specification is finalized. For more information on third-party certification, please visit www.energystar.gov/3rdpartycert

Next Steps

Collaboration and transparency are a priority for the ENERGY STAR program, and stakeholder participation is essential in the specification development effort and is strongly encouraged. Over the next few months, EPA will be working with stakeholders, gathering performance data, attending trade shows, and conducting industry outreach to learn more about products and new technologies, and answering any questions about the ENERGY STAR program.

Once a sufficient amount of performance data is collected, EPA will review the data and then develop an initial draft efficiency specification for coffee brewers. EPA then distributes this draft, along with the masked data, to our broad array of stakeholders for comment. Comments received will inform subsequent drafts which culminates with the finalization of a product efficiency specification. Multiple opportunities to actively discuss proposed elements for each specification are provided through meetings and webinars. All documents related to each specification development are posted on the ENERGY STAR web site.

The exchange of ideas and information between EPA, industry, and other interested parties is critical to the success of ENERGY STAR. Your input is essential during this specification development process. Please feel free to forward this letter onto colleagues who might be interested in being a part of this effort, especially if attending the National Automatic Merchandising Association (NAMA) One Show in Chicago in April 2014. EPA representation will be in attendance and would be interested in meeting with industry representatives.

If you have any questions about the ENERGY STAR program and this effort in particular, please contact me at (202) 343-9046 and kent.christopher@epa.gov or Adam Spitz, ICF International, at (202) 862-1226 and adam.spitz@icfi.com with any questions or comments.

Thank you for your continued support of ENERGY STAR.

Sincerely,



Christopher Kent, Product Manager
ENERGY STAR Commercial Coffee Machines