

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



OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

December 13, 2002

Dear Air Cleaner Manufacturer or Other Interested Stakeholder:

As you may recall, in February 2001, EPA contacted air cleaner manufacturers and interested stakeholders to express its interest in developing an ENERGY STAR specification for air cleaners. That effort was temporarily halted to address other program priorities. However, as a result of continued industry interest EPA is revisiting the idea to expand ENERGY STAR to include room air cleaners as a new product category.

Over the last few months, EPA's Product Development Team has been working with various air cleaner manufacturers to collect information on the market for this product and its energy efficiency potential. Based on this preliminary research, EPA believes the potential may exist for air cleaners to achieve significant energy savings without compromising quality or product performance.

To assess the potential of an ENERGY STAR specification for air cleaners, EPA is currently evaluating existing industry test standards, product performance data, and other attributes that may play a role in setting an appropriate specification. Although a standard test procedure to measure energy consumption has not been explicitly established by the air cleaner industry to date, EPA's preliminary discussions with some members of industry indicate that energy performance data might be attained as a byproduct of AHAM AC-1 test procedures. In the near future, EPA intends to discuss with industry the merits and means of gathering energy consumption data, the results expected, as well as the potential energy savings benefits and market response to such a specification.

EPA would like to extend the offer to meet with manufacturers to discuss its preliminary findings and possible next steps towards developing an air cleaner specification at the upcoming **International Housewares Show in Chicago, January 12-14, 2003**. If you are attending the show and would like to meet with ENERGY STAR representatives, please contact Rebecca Miller at rmiller@icfconsulting.com or Milanga Abeysuriya at mabeysuriya@icfconsulting.com, with ICF Consulting to confirm schedules and make the appropriate arrangements. This meeting is an ideal opportunity for EPA to discuss issues affecting the air cleaner market and share information about ENERGY STAR with manufacturers.

The development of this and all ENERGY STAR specifications is an open process. As a member of this industry, your input is very valuable. We welcome and appreciate your participation. Please feel free to contact me with questions, concerns, and/or comments anytime during this development process at fanara.andrew@epa.gov or (202) 564-9019. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew Fanara", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Andrew Fanara
ENERGY STAR Product Development