



How to Disclose ENERGY STAR Scores and Certification in Environmental Product Declarations and Other Resources

ISO 14020 and ISO 29030 permit Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs) to include *Additional Environmental Information* in an EPD. This environmental information can include data on building product performance, adherence to any environmental management system, and any other environmental certification program (ISO 14020 7.2.3 b-d). Providing additional environmental information helps communicate other key environmental attributes of a product to prospective purchasers.

Manufacturers can report the ENERGY STAR Energy Performance Scores (ENERGY STAR Scores) for their manufacturing plants in EPDs or in other resources that disclose the environmental impacts of a product. Manufacturers can also include the ENERGY STAR Scores for upstream manufacturing plants from which they sourced inputs.

ENERGY STAR Scores have been developed for most energy intensive parts of a supply chain. ENERGY STAR scores provide nearly 20 manufacturing sectors the ability to demonstrate how their plants compare to others in the United States or in Canada.

This document provides guidance on how to communicate the ENERGY STAR Score of these plants and reference any plants that have received ENERGY STAR certification within Environmental Product Declarations or in other materials that communicate aspects of a product's environmental impact.

I. Information to report

Energy Performance Score

A manufacturer may indicate the ENERGY STAR Score for the plant where a product is produced. The following text can be included to introduce the ENERGY STAR Energy Performance Score:

The U.S. EPA has developed ENERGY STAR energy performance scores to benchmark the energy efficiency of certain manufacturing plants. ENERGY STAR Energy Performance Scores measure how energy efficiently a manufacturing plant operates when compared to similar plants using a 1-100 scale. A score of 50 reflects average performance, 1 reflects lowest performance and 100 reflects highest performance.

When providing an ENERGY STAR Score it is suggested that the following information is also disclosed:

- **Name and location of manufacturing plant**
- **ENERGY STAR Score**
- **Reporting Period:** ENERGY STAR Scores are based on 12 consecutive months of energy and production related data. The reporting period, to the extent possible, should align with the data period used for producing the EPD or include a more recent 12-month period.

- **Model Version:** The model used to calculate ENERGY STAR Scores is periodically updated. Include the version number found at the top of the Energy Performance Indicator used to calculate the score.

For example:

*Plant: Dave's Cement Plant, Lime Valley, MD
ENERGY STAR Score: 80
Reporting Period: May 2019-April 2020
Model Version: Cement EPI v.2.1*

ENERGY STAR Certification

Manufacturing plants can be [ENERGY STAR certified](#) when they are in the top quartile of energy efficiency, have submitted a verified application for certification, and have met environmental compliance criteria. A list of all ENERGY STAR certified plants can be found at: www.energystar.gov/buildinglist.

A manufacturer may indicate whether a plant where a product is produced has earned ENERGY STAR plant certification. The following text can be included to introduce ENERGY STAR Certification:

ENERGY STAR certifies manufacturing plants that are the most energy efficient plants in their sector. An ENERGY STAR Certified Plant is in the top quartile of energy efficiency when compared to similar plants, as evidenced by having a score of 75 out of 100 or higher on an ENERGY STAR Energy Performance Indicator. ENERGY STAR Certified Plants are subject to additional criteria and verification by the U.S. EPA.

When referencing a manufacturing plant that received ENERGY STAR certification the following it is suggested that the following information is disclosed:

- Name and location of manufacturing plant
- Year(s) in which the plant was certified

For example:

*Plant: Dave's Cement Plant, Lime Valley, MD
Certification Year: 2019, 2020*

If a plant has not achieved certification, a manufacturer can still communicate performance by including the plant's ENERGY STAR Score.

II. Tailoring message based on type of EPD

Procurement agencies and customers may ask for specific types of EPDs. The following section provides suggestions of how to present an ENERGY STAR Score and/or ENERGY STAR plant certification in these types of EPDs.

| EPD Type | EPD Description | Guidance |
|--------------------|--|--|
| Facility Specific* | A facility specific EPD is a product EPD in which the environmental impacts can be attributed to a single manufacturer and manufacturing facility. | Include the ENERGY STAR Score for the plant and reference whether the plant has achieved ENERGY STAR certification (if applicable) based on the guidance above. |
| Product Specific* | A product specific EPD represents the impacts for a specific product and manufacturer across multiple facilities. | Include the ENERGY STAR Score and reference the plants that have achieved ENERGY STAR certification (if applicable) for <i>all manufacturing plants that informed the EPD</i> . |
| Company Specific | A company specific EPD may communicate the environmental attributes of all of a company's products or a class of their products | Include the ENERGY STAR Score and reference the plants that have achieved ENERGY STAR certification (if applicable) for <i>all company manufacturing plants</i> for which ENERGY STAR has a benchmarking tool. If the company has multiple plants that manufacture the same product, it is preferable to include the relative share of that plant's production to the company's total. |
| Industry Average | Industry average EPDs provide average environmental attributes for a product or group of products based on industry wide datasets. | Since ENERGY STAR scores are facility specific, it would not be possible to calculate an ENERGY STAR score for the entire industry. Instead ask for the ENERGY STAR score of the facility where the product originates. |

*Definitions derived from Lewis, M., Huang, M., Waldman, B., Carlisle, S., and Simonen, K. (2021). *Environmental Product Declaration Requirements in Procurement Policies*. Carbon Leadership Forum, University of Washington. Seattle, WA. <https://carbonleadershipforum.org/epd-requirements-in-procurement-policies/>

For reporting energy performance of upstream manufacturing plants or supply chain specific EPDs

Many times the environmental impacts of a product will originate at the manufacturing plant(s) where the manufacturer sources its inputs (i.e. the cement in concrete or the steel in cast or rolled steel products). Supply chain specific EPDs are product EPDs but are designed to use *primary data*, rather than industry averages or proxies, from the supply-chain to calculate the impacts of key upstream processes. Communicating the energy performance of those plants will also help communicate the overall environmental impacts of your product.

To obtain the Energy Performance Score of a supplier, request that information directly from them. Request that they provide the

information in Section I above. In the event you source material inputs from more than one plant indicate the scores of both or the scores for which you were able to obtain.

If an ENERGY STAR Score cannot be provided, you could also consult the ENERGY STAR certified plant registry (www.energystar.gov/buildinglist) to see if supplier plants have been ENERGY STAR certified. If so, include the information on ENERGY STAR certification above.

If you would like more information on ways to verify scores prior to including them on an EPD contact certifiedplants@energystar.gov.