

ENERGY STAR Resources

This tip sheet corresponds with Green Star Award Standard #4 – Reduce Energy and Water Consumption. Another useful tool is Chapter 6 in “Becoming a Green Star: A Waste Prevention Guide for Anchorage Businesses.” You can find the guide online in pdf and html format at www.greenstarinc.org/guideindex.php or request a hard copy from Green Star.

What is ENERGY STAR?

ENERGY STAR is a joint program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy designed to help individuals and businesses save money and protect the environment through the use of energy-efficient products and practices.



In 2006, with the help of ENERGY STAR, Americans reduced their energy use enough to reduce greenhouse gas emissions equal to that generated by 25 million cars — all while saving \$14 billion on their utility bills.

What does ENERGY STAR offer?

ENERGY STAR has programs specifically for businesses and for households.

For businesses:

- Tips for choosing ENERGY STAR-rated commercial products
- Energy management guidelines
- New green building design
- Tools and resources library
- Energy/lighting calculators and benchmarking
- Online trainings
- Expert help and networking opportunities
- Success stories
- Recognition through an award program

For households:

- Tips for choosing ENERGY STAR-rated household products
- Home energy use analysis
- How to make smart heating, cooling, and insulation decisions
- Solutions to common home energy problems
- Features of ENERGY STAR-rated new homes

Business Resources

Look under the heading of “Buildings and Plants” on the ENERGY STAR web site if you are looking for assistance for your business. ENERGY STAR offers commercial and industrial organizations the strategies, tools, professional assistance, and recognition to implement a successful energy efficiency program. The site also offers business sector-specific information. Each sector category provides details that are pertinent to that business type, including relevant case studies, success stories and direct links to related products. You’ll also find a list of related ENERGY STAR award winners and energy calculators that will fit with your specific business type.

- Commercial & Corporate Real Estate
- Government
- Healthcare
- Higher Education
- Hospitality
- Industrial
- K-12
- Retail
- Small Business
- Congregations
- Service & Products Providers
- Utilities & Energy Efficiency Program Sponsors



Take the Energy Star Challenge

The U.S. EPA issued the ENERGY STAR Challenge to call on building owners across the country to improve the efficiency of their buildings by 10% or more. The U.S. EPA estimates that if each building owner met this challenge, by 2015 Americans would reduce greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to those from 15 million vehicles, while saving about \$10 billion.

The buildings in which we work, shop, and educate our children use about \$80 billion worth of electricity and natural gas each year. These buildings use much of their energy at peak times, helping drive the need for new power generation and more natural gas consumption. They also contribute about 20% of our national emissions of greenhouse gases.

Who can take the Challenge?

- Building Owners/Managers
- Associations/Non-Profit Organizations
- Government Agencies
- Service/Product Providers

Visit www.energystar.gov to take the challenge.

ENERGY STAR History

1992 — U.S. EPA introduces the first ENERGY STAR qualified product line, including personal computers and monitors.

1996 — U.S. EPA launches ENERGY STAR for buildings.

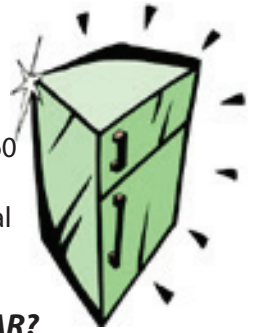
1999 — ENERGY STAR label is extended to office buildings performing in the top 25% of the market.

2000 – 2004 — ENERGY STAR is expanded to schools, hotels, hospitals, supermarkets, and other building types.

2007 — More than 3,200 buildings have earned the ENERGY STAR for superior energy management.

Products

ENERGY STAR's original mission was to rate the energy efficiency of products. Over the past fifteen years, more than 60 product lines have been rated, ranging from personal computers to commercial refrigerators.



What makes a product ENERGY STAR?

ENERGY STAR products are the same or better than standard products, only they use less energy. To earn the ENERGY STAR, they must meet strict energy efficiency criteria set by the U.S. EPA or the U.S. Department of Energy. Since they use less energy, these products save you money on your electricity bill and help protect the environment by causing fewer harmful emissions from power plants. Some examples include:

- Qualified **refrigerators** are at least 15% more efficient than the minimum federal efficiency standard.
- Qualified **TVs** consume three watts or less when switched off, compared to a standard TV, which consumes almost six watts on average.
- **Office equipment** that qualifies automatically enters a low-power "sleep" mode after a period of inactivity.
- Qualified **light bulbs** (CFLs) use two-thirds less energy than standard incandescent bulbs and must meet additional operating and reliability guidelines.
- Qualified **furnaces** offer a rating of 90% AFUE or greater, which is about 15% more efficient than the minimum federal efficiency standard.

ENERGY STAR in Alaska

There are 23 ENERGY STAR Partners throughout the State of Alaska. These partners pledge to 1) manufacture or promote ENERGY STAR labeled homes, or 2) improve the energy efficiency of their facilities. For a business wanting to reduce energy use, all it takes is a letter of commitment, a plan to track and benchmark your energy use, and a strategy for improving your energy performance. ENERGY STAR's resources can help you develop your plan. Visit www.energystar.gov and click on "Who Has Joined?" in the right column to see a list of Alaska's ENERGY STAR Partners.

Energy Facts

- 26% of electricity used in office buildings is consumed by office equipment.
- 48% of U.S. carbon emissions come from commercial buildings and industrial facilities.
- Every \$1 put toward energy improvements in a leased property increases its asset value by \$3.
- U.S. school districts spend \$6 billion each year on energy – second only to salaries.
- On average, top energy-performing buildings use three to four times less energy than the worst performers.

Portfolio Manager

Take control of your business' energy and water consumption by managing your entire portfolio of buildings in a secure online environment. Portfolio Manager is a free tool available through ENERGY STAR to help you track and rate your building's energy performance.

The rating system accounts for weather, location, and size and allows you to compare your building with other similar buildings across the country. This energy data management system is available for a wide range of business types, including hospitals, offices, schools, hotels, supermarkets and more.

Green Star can help you get started.



5011 Spenard Road, Bldg. A, Suite 204, Anchorage, AK 99517

Phone: (907) 278-7827 ~ Fax: (907) 279-5868

info@greenstarinc.org ~ www.greenstarinc.org

Good for Business ~ Good for the Community ~ Good for the Environment