



ENERGY E-TIPS

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What makes ENERGY STAR eligible products better?

This edition of ENERGY E-TIPS discusses some important information related to the Energy Star label that might help Arkansas citizens. It will answer the following questions: What does Energy Star mean? What is the difference between Energy Star label and Energy Guide Label? Who issues the Energy Star label? How do products qualify for the Energy Star label? What about the Arkansas Energy Star appliance rebate program?

Arkansans have been told that they can save money and energy by purchasing Energy Star products. Initially, it is important to understand the difference between an Energy Guide label and an Energy Star label. Energy Guide label provides information on the energy performance of products (as mentioned in the August 1, 2010 ENERGY E-TIPS edition), allowing the buyer to compare energy performance ratings for different models. However, Energy Star label identifies the most energy-efficient models that meet or exceed premium levels of energy.

Energy Star[®] logo is a federal government-backed symbol that supports processes and appliances that save money and protect the environment through energy efficiency. By using these processes and appliances, Energy Star hopes to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and make it easier for consumers to save energy without sacrificing performance, features, and comfort. The logo below shows Energy Star label.



According to the Energy Star website (<http://www.energystar.gov>), all major home appliances must meet the Appliance Standards Program set by the US Department of Energy (DOE). Manufacturers must use standard test procedures developed by DOE to prove the energy use and efficiency of their products. An Energy Star Qualified appliance must carry the Energy Guide Label, and the Energy Star logo is often shown on the Energy Guide Label.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), supported by the Department of Energy, has the authority and responsibility for establishing Energy Star labels and products that carry the energy star logo. The EPA also has the responsibility to revise an Energy Star label or product. They consider the following items when giving a product the Energy Star approval:

- Product categories must contribute to significant energy savings nationwide.
- Qualified products must deliver the features and performance demanded by consumers, in addition to increased energy efficiency.
- If the qualified product costs more than a conventional, less-efficient counterpart, purchasers will recover their investment in increased energy efficiency through utility bill savings, within a reasonable period.
- Energy efficiency can be achieved through broadly available, non-proprietary technologies offered by more than one manufacturer.
- Product energy consumption and performance can be measured and verified with testing.
- Labeling would effectively differentiate products and be visible for purchasers.

Energy Star qualified products are found in retailers' showrooms across Arkansas. Consumers can look for the Energy Star label on product packaging, literature, product advertising and, of course, on the products themselves.

Arkansas Energy Office has a program called “Arkansas ENERGY STAR[®] Appliance Rebate Program.” According to Arkansas Energy Office website, the Arkansas Energy Office had increased the rebate amounts for qualifying Energy Star appliances to \$275 for refrigerators, \$225 for clothes washers and \$300 for water heaters. The Arkansas Energy Star Appliance Rebate Program is currently closed (<http://www.ar.state-rebate.com/arra-appliance>). They are attempting to secure additional funding to extend the program. Therefore, please visit their website often for program updates if you will purchase an Energy Star appliance in the future.

For more information on the Energy Star Program

<http://www.energystar.gov>

http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=products.pr_how_earn

<http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/pubs/consumer/homes/real4.shtm>

http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=appliances.pr_energy_guide

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