



March 16, 2022

The Honorable Michael Regan  
Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Mail Code 1101 A  
Washington, DC 20460

RE: ENERGY STAR Appropriations and Disadvantaged Communities

Dear Administrator Regan:

On behalf of the Alliance to Save Energy, I am writing to urge you to support doubling the ENERGY STAR program annual budget from \$39 million to \$80 million, and that you support providing the program its own budget line-item for FY 2023 and future appropriations. ENERGY STAR is a highly successful public-private partnership that delivers tremendous impact in addressing climate change and generating energy savings for consumers. Moreover, increased program funding will be essential to ensure that the program fulfills its expanding mission and has the growth and flexibility necessary to successfully include hard-to-reach disadvantaged and Native American communities.

ENERGY STAR is well known for its ability to facilitate energy savings for consumers and to encourage innovation in residential construction and appliance manufacturing. In 2019 alone, the program saved American consumers and businesses more than [\\$39 billion](#) in avoided energy costs. During the same period ENERGY STAR accounted for nearly [390 million metric tons](#) of emissions reductions – equivalent to roughly 5% of U.S. GHG emissions.

Yet, in recent years ENERGY STAR has seen its funding steadily decline from a high of nearly \$54 million a decade ago to \$39.4 million today. Merely adjusting for inflation would yield a flat budget of approximately \$65 million in today's dollars versus a decade ago. These funding cuts have greatly restricted ENERGY STAR's ability to keep up with fast-changing markets and to expand the program's reach in sectors where large untapped energy savings are achievable.

To better ensure that the benefits of ENERGY STAR are equitable, the program must effectively target those areas where disadvantaged and Native American communities and ENERGY STAR most likely intersect. In the housing context, knowledge about the impact and benefits of the program at the low-income consumer level can directly impact program participation at the builder and building landlord level, and can have the effect of driving rental and affordable single-family markets toward ENERGY STAR certified homes. However, this would involve

substantial strategic marketing, including development of effective strategies to educate targeted communities, and would also involve effectively tracking and reporting how the program impacts the lives of disadvantaged and hard-to-reach communities, including but not limited to outreach strategies and efforts.

However, because ENERGY STAR operates on a shoestring budget it is barely able to keep pace with certification updates, data collection, program monitoring, and the increased responsibilities proposed by the administration to further the nation's response to climate change. Our request to effectively double ENERGY STAR's funding to \$80 million reflects the urgency of not only addressing climate change but also to help a community of consumers and businesses potentially excluded from ENERGY's STAR's impact and benefits save money.

If we are to meet the current challenges before us and equitably increase our efforts to mitigate climate change, increasing ENERGY STAR's budget is essential. Thank you for your continued leadership of the Environmental Protection Agency and your unwavering leadership and advancement of underserved communities. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,



Paula R. Glover  
President

Cc:

Senator Jeff Merkley, Chairman, Senate Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

Senator Lisa Murkowski, Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

Representative Chellie Pingree, Chair, House Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies

Representative David Joyce, Ranking Member, House Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies