



## HELP PROTECT THE CLIMATE

Climate change is a real and urgent challenge affecting people and the environment worldwide.

Human activities such as electricity production and transportation add significant amounts of carbon pollution to the atmosphere. This carbon pollution, along with other greenhouse gases, is the primary cause of most of the global temperature rise observed over the past 50 years.

Global warming has already led to rising sea levels, melting glaciers, and shifting rainfall patterns, among other changes. Unchecked carbon pollution can lead to long-lasting changes in our climate that threaten human health, society, and ecosystems. To learn more about climate change and what you can do to reduce its impacts, visit [epa.gov/climatechange](http://epa.gov/climatechange).

## DO YOUR PART

Choosing energy-efficient products and practicing simple energy saving measures reduces the amount of carbon pollution added to the atmosphere. EPA's ENERGY STAR program offers tips and product information to help you do your part in protecting your family and your community from the effects of climate change now and in the future.

**If every appliance purchased in the United States this year were ENERGY STAR certified, we would prevent greenhouse gas emissions equal to those from 215,000 cars—and save \$360 million in annual energy costs.**

EPA 430F-12-004, September 2012.  
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Choose ENERGY STAR® Certified  
**Appliances**

Helping you save money and protect the climate  
through energy-efficient products and practices.



## WHAT IS ENERGY STAR?

ENERGY STAR is a widely recognized and trusted label on products that meet strict energy-efficiency requirements set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). ENERGY STAR certified products are third-party certified and subject to ongoing verification testing.

Products that have earned the ENERGY STAR help you save energy and money without sacrificing performance. By using less energy, these products also help reduce greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change.

Today, the ENERGY STAR label can be found on more than 65 different kinds of products found in our homes and workplaces including lighting, appliances, office equipment, consumer electronics, and heating and cooling equipment. Energy-efficient new and renovated homes, as well as schools, government buildings, and commercial and industrial buildings also can earn the ENERGY STAR.

Learn more at [energystar.gov](http://energystar.gov)



## ENERGY STAR CERTIFIED APPLIANCES

When purchasing appliances, remember there are *two* price tags: what you pay at the register and what you pay in energy and water costs to operate them. By incorporating advanced technologies and premium features, ENERGY STAR certified appliances help offset initial costs through energy savings over the life of the unit.

Certified appliances often feature the ENERGY STAR mark directly on the yellow EnergyGuide label. The EnergyGuide indicates how much energy is used to operate each appliance and provides an energy scale for you to compare products. It also lists approximate annual operating costs. Your exact costs will depend on local utility rates and types and sources of energy.

### REFRIGERATORS AND FREEZERS

Improvements in insulation and compressors ensure that today's refrigerators and freezers use much less energy than older models. A new ENERGY STAR certified refrigerator is about 15 percent more energy efficient than the minimum federal standard for refrigerators and can cost you about \$50 a year to run, on average. A typical ENERGY STAR certified refrigerator uses less energy than a 60-watt light bulb. An ENERGY STAR certified freezer uses 10 percent less energy than a new, non-certified model.

### DEHUMIDIFIERS

A standard dehumidifier running constantly uses more energy than a refrigerator, clothes washer, and dishwasher combined. An ENERGY STAR certified dehumidifier removes the same amount of moisture as a similarly sized standard unit, but uses 15 percent less energy because it has more efficient refrigeration coils, compressors, and fans. An average ENERGY STAR certified dehumidifier can save you about \$175 over the life of the unit—enough to pay for the dehumidifier.

### ROOM AIR CLEANERS AND PURIFIERS

Room air cleaners and purifiers help remove fine particles, such as dust and pollen, from indoor air. ENERGY STAR certified room air cleaners are 40 percent more energy-efficient than standard models, saving you \$25 annually on your utility bills. These savings could add up to more than \$200 over the life of the air purifier.

### DISHWASHERS

New ENERGY STAR certified dishwashers, on average, are 10 percent more energy efficient and 20 percent more water efficient than standard models, costing less than \$35 annually to run, while saving on average, 1,900 gallons of water over its lifetime. Using advanced technology such as soil sensors, improved water filtration, more efficient jets, and innovative dish rack designs, your dishes get clean while using less water and energy.

### CLOTHES WASHERS

The average American family washes about 300 loads of laundry each year. An ENERGY STAR certified clothes washer can cut your energy costs by about a third and your water costs by more than half. Choose from top-loading or front-loading models that have greater capacity than standard models, which means you can run fewer loads to clean the same amount of laundry. Efficient motors spin clothes faster during the spin cycle to extract more water, meaning less energy use for drying time.

## BENEFITS OF ENERGY STAR CERTIFIED APPLIANCES

Consider these benefits and energy-saving tips when replacing old appliances with ENERGY STAR certified models:

**Efficient Refrigerators** – Reduce the amount of energy your refrigerator uses by following these tips:

- Set the appropriate temperature. Keep your refrigerator at 35 to 38 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Place your fridge in a cool place. Position your refrigerator away from a heat source such as an oven, a dishwasher, or direct sunlight from a window.
- Allow air circulation behind the fridge. Leave a few inches between the wall and the refrigerator, and keep the condenser coils clean if you have an older model. Read the user's manual to learn how to safely clean coils. Coil cleaning brushes can be purchased at most hardware stores.
- Check the door seals. Make sure the refrigerator seals around the door are airtight. If not, replace them.
- Keep the door closed. Minimize the amount of time the refrigerator door is open.

About a quarter of U.S. households have a second refrigerator. If you have an older refrigerator in your basement or garage, it could be costing you more than \$300 each year to run it. Many appliance retailers will pick up and recycle your old fridge or freezer when you purchase a new one. Ask your retailer for assurance that the old unit will be properly recycled and not resold as an inefficient, second-hand unit.

**Smart Dishwashers** – ENERGY STAR certified dishwashers have "smart" features that minimize water use and demand on the water heater, and allow for quieter operation and less pre-rinsing. Construction includes more effective washing action, energy-efficient motors, and other advanced technology, such as sensors that determine the length of the wash cycle and the

temperature of the water necessary to clean the dishes. When shopping for a new dishwasher, consider how much water the dishwasher uses per cycle—less water means less cost to operate. To save even more energy, avoid using the heated dry cycle. Instead, let your dishes air dry.

**Advanced Clothes Washer Technology** – ENERGY STAR certified clothes washers incorporate high-quality features for improved performance. Gentler operation, more thorough rinsing, and the removal of more water in the spin cycle make washing clothes more convenient and help protect your clothing investment.

Front-loading machines feature washtubs that move clothes horizontally, similar to clothes dryers. Top-loading ENERGY STAR certified clothes washers use sensor technology to control water temperature and volume, and then use high-pressure spray rinses to remove soap from clothes.

Water heating consumes about 90 percent of the energy used to operate a clothes washer. Unless you're dealing with oily stains, washing in cold water will generally do a good job of cleaning. Switching your temperature setting from hot to warm can cut energy use in half. Using the cold cycle reduces energy use even more.

**Energy-Efficient Dehumidifiers** – Dehumidifiers reduce the amount of moisture in the air and have become popular appliances in homes across the United States, particularly those with basements. Reduced moisture contributes to a healthy home environment by preventing mold, mildew, and odor. Dehumidifiers tend to get more efficient as they get larger. If you are unsure about what size to buy, choose the larger model that comes with an adjustable humidity control.

