

## ENERGY STAR® FACT SHEET

### What is ENERGY STAR®?

ENERGY STAR® is a joint program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy that works to protect the environment and save money through energy efficient products and practices.

The ENERGY STAR® partnership offers a proven energy management strategy that helps in measuring current energy performance, setting goals, tracking savings, and rewarding.

ENERGY STAR® works with more than 9,000 partners to improve the energy efficiency of products, homes, buildings and businesses. In 2006 alone, ENERGY STAR® helped businesses and consumers save more than \$14 billion in energy costs while reducing global warming emissions equivalent to those from 25 million vehicles.

EPA provides an energy performance rating system already used for more than 62,000 buildings across the country. EPA recognizes top performing buildings with the ENERGY STAR®.

### Higher Education and ENERGY STAR®

The ENERGY STAR® program allows for benchmarking and sharing of ideas among all partners on the issues of technology, strategies and culture shifting towards environmental responsibility. Already, 175 institutions of higher education have pledged to be ENERGY STAR® partners including Columbia University, John Hopkins University, Duke University, and The University of Arkansas Fayetteville.

In Texas, higher education institutions that are ENERGY STAR® partners are The University of North Texas, Alamo Community College District, El Paso County Community College District, Lubbock Christian University, Richland College, and Weatherford College.

### ENERGY STAR® Guidelines and Flexibility

The ENERGY STAR® Partner program allows each partner to do what works best for them within the core guidelines of the program:

- Measure and track the energy performance where possible by using tools such as those offered through ENERGY STAR®
- Develop and implement a plan consistent with the ENERGY STAR® Energy Management Guidelines to achieve energy savings.
- Help spread the word about the importance of energy efficiency to staff and the community.
- Support the ENERGY STAR® Challenge, a national call-to-action to help improve the energy efficiency of America's commercial and industrial buildings by 10 percent or more.
- Highlight achievements with recognition offered through ENERGY STAR®.

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