



Energy Star Updates

What you need to know!!!

Dear Colleagues –

As you may have heard, the EPA has made some significant changes to the Energy Star program in the last 12 months. The EPA is updating the program in an attempt to more accurately categorize energy usage for different building types and spaces. The long-term goal is to create a more complete and accurate benchmarking tool. Participating in the program, requires building owners and operators to keep pace with the changes handed down from Energy Star. Although these changes may not always seem logical or easy, we still have to follow the requirements to participate in the program.

There have been 5 main changes to the program in the last year. Here is a short list and description for your reference:



Definition of a Data Center has been revised. This was implemented to isolate a true data center space from the 'server room' or 'IT closet' type space. The Definition of a Data Center per Energy Star is as follows: *Data Center applies to spaces specifically designed and equipped to meet the needs of high density computing equipment such as server racks used for data storage and processing. Typically these facilities require dedicated uninterruptible power supplies and cooling systems. Data Center functions may include traditional enterprise services, on-demand enterprise services, high performance computing, internet facilities, and/or hosting facilities. Often Data Centers are free-standing, mission-critical computing centers. When a Data Center is located within a larger building, it usually has its own power and cooling systems. It is also common to have raised floor space to facilitate equipment cooling. The Data Center space is intended for sophisticated computing and server functions; it should not be used to represent a server closet or computer training area.*

If your building contains a space that meets the Data Center definition, then it will need to be metered in compliance with the new Energy Star requirements. Energy Star requires metering of the IT equipment and not metering of the entire data center. This metering is to be directly AFTER the UPS(s) that feeds the IT equipment within the data center. Therefore, a typical sub meter installed for bill back purposes does not exist at this location and can't be used. Care should be taken to locate a new sub meter correctly. Some UPS can provide output data internally. IF this is the case, you may be able to collect the monthly consumption from the UPS without installing a separate meter. Currently you are allowed to use 'an area only method' in Portfolio Manager (PM) for Data Center spaces. With the space's square footage entered, PM will calculate estimated energy consumption based on the space area. This will be allowed until May 31, 2012. Starting June 1, 2012 the use of this space type must also include 12 months of data center meter data from a meter installed as noted above. This means that if your application for 2012 takes place after June 1, then you will need meter data in hand for the 12 months prior to your application date. Therefore it is advised that meters be installed at least 12 months prior to the date of your 2012 application (or earlier to be safe). (For example: if your general application is thru July 31, you need to have meters installed THIS JULY (2011) to have enough data for your 2012 application).

Server Rooms/IT closets/Small Computer rooms are to be classified as office space. If these spaces operate 24-hours a day with separate HVAC, then these spaces can be separated from the 'typical' office space. In Portfolio Manager you can separate the area and set up a separate office space. If you have more than one server room space then you can total those areas to make up one total space in PM. The occupant count for this space type would be '0', the hours of operation would be 168 (per week) and the 'PC count' should equal the server count. Therefore, you now have to obtain a server count to separate this space type.

Starting January 1, 2012, all labels received will be for the year in which they are approved and not per the last month of data. Currently the year of your label corresponds to the date of the last month of consumption data. (For example: If your data spans from Jan 2010 to Dec 2010, then your label would be for 2010). This is changing and 2011 is the interim year for this change. This creates a challenge for all buildings seeking applications at the end of 2011. Energy Star states they will work with applicants to avoid missing a 2011 plaque. The current policy states that if your application is not postmarked by November 15, you may not get a 2011 plaque. We are working with the EPA to determine what will be allowed, but currently it appears you would be able to apply earlier than the previous year. This means the application will likely not have to have a full 12 months of data for this year only. If your application is generally renewed at the end of the year (September thru December) then it is advisable that you complete your application as quickly as possible. Energy Star should contact you when you are eligible to reapply; however, we recommend you work with your third party reviewer to make sure you are ahead of the game. *We anticipate a bottle neck at the EPA for review, so be sure to complete your application as soon as you can.*



Starting June 1, 2011, Energy Star will not be providing plaques for the building. Instead they are now providing window decals. We were notified of this change in early May 2011. *See the attached PDF for information on the decal mockups. You may want to start thinking about where/how you may want to locate these decals.*

With these current revisions, it is a good idea to coordinate with your staff and your third party reviewer (PE or AIA) to meet the requirements. Should you have any questions about your application or the current Energy Star Policies, please feel free to contact our office. We appreciate your time and interest in the Energy Star program.

Sincerely,

T&D Engineers, LLC

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