

**Date:** May 15, 2024

**Submitted by:** Sapna Gheewala Dowla, Associate VP Policy & Research, Alliance to Save Energy

**Prepared for:** Senate Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

**Subject:** U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) ENERGY STAR FY2025 Appropriations

The Alliance to Save Energy, a bipartisan, non-profit organization representing a coalition of businesses, government, and environmental & consumer leaders, respectfully submits this testimony alongside the undersigned allied organizations to urge you to support robust energy efficiency (EE) investments in critical programs managed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), particularly increasing the ENERGY STAR budget for FY 2025 to \$50 million. ENERGY STAR is well known for its ability to facilitate energy savings for consumers and to encourage innovation in residential construction and appliance manufacturing. Energy efficiency, a key domestic resource, is critical to ensuring safe, reliable, & affordable energy to Americans now & in the future. Efficiency measures have cut our energy use in half relative to the size of the U.S. economy since 1980. This energy waste reduction has effectively delivered more than \$2,000 in annual savings per American.

In 2020 alone, ENERGY STAR saved American consumers and businesses more than [\\$42 billion](#) in avoided energy costs. During the same period, ENERGY STAR accounted for nearly [400 million metric tons](#) of emissions reductions – equivalent to more than five percent of U.S. total greenhouse gas emissions. Since 1992 the program has helped businesses and consumers save 5 trillion KWhs of electricity and avoid over \$500 billion in energy costs— and the program is also responsible for 4 billion metric tons of GHG reductions during the same period.

Notwithstanding the program’s success, ENERGY STAR has seen its funding steadily decline from a high of nearly \$54 million more than a decade ago, to \$33 million today. If we were to simply adjust for inflation, ENERGY STAR would have a budget of approximately \$75 million<sup>1</sup> in today’s dollars versus a decade ago. This steady decrease in funding priority has 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, including low-to-moderate income, disadvantaged, and tribal communities.

With broad bipartisan support and nationwide brand recognition above 90%, ENERGY STAR is among the most impactful energy and climate programs in the federal government. Our request to increase the ENERGY STAR budget to \$50 million reflects the urgency to address climate change and the need to prioritize energy efficiency solutions as consumers and businesses are faced with higher energy costs. We fully appreciate the competing interests during the budget and appropriation cycles, however, we urge prioritization of energy efficiency— as “one of the fastest, most cost-effective ways to save money, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, create jobs, and meet growing energy demand.”<sup>1</sup>

Thank you for your leadership on these important issues, and we look forward to working together to strengthen the ENERGY STAR program. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Sapna Dowla ([sgdowla@ase.org](mailto:sgdowla@ase.org)) with the Alliance to Save Energy.

<sup>1</sup> The chained GDP deflator in the FY25 budget (Historical Tables 10.1) gives 0.8968 for FY2010 and 1.2533 for FY2024 (estimate).  
53.6/.8968\*1.2533 = 74.9

Sincerely,

Alliance to Save Energy (ASE)  
American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE)  
Acuity Brands  
ASHRAE  
Building Performance Association (BPA)  
Building Potential  
Cellulose Insulation Manufacturers Association  
DuPont  
E4TheFuture  
Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI)  
Federal Performance Contracting Coalition (FPCC)  
Institute for Market Transformation (IMT)  
Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (MEEA)  
National Association of Energy Service Companies (NAESCO)  
National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO)  
Northeast Energy Efficiency and Electrification Council (NEEEC)  
Polyisocyanurate Insulation Manufacturers Association  
Southwest Energy Efficiency Project (SWEEP)  
U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC)