



# Federal & State Appliance Efficiency Standards

Smart, Efficient Low Carbon Building Energy Solutions

## MISSION

*Supporting minimum product efficiency standards that lock in long-term energy and carbon emission savings enabled by regional and national market transformation activities*

**Federal and state Appliance efficiency standards** are a critical regulatory lever to reduce electricity, gas, and water usage associated with our most common appliances and equipment. State and Federal appliance and equipment standards also offer huge potential to impact carbon use. In fact, by 2050, federal standards have the annual potential to curb 200 million metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> that would have otherwise been emitted nationally (ASAP 2016). That is the equivalent of nearly 30 million homes' electricity use over a year. As decarbonization becomes more of a focal point for the region, there is an opportunity to overlay carbon goals to appliance standards that apply across fuels. State officials can lead-by-example in supporting minimum product efficiency standards that lock in long-term energy savings, and provide value as part of an integrated carbon reduction plan.

## LONG-TERM MARKET TRANSFORMATION GOALS

### By 2025:

- Federal appliance standards are updated to secure all cost effective energy and carbon savings and include 2019-2020 Northeast states standards.

## Regional Trends and Leaders:

- State energy and climate stabilization plans include tighter appliance efficiency standards to provide affordable and reliable energy while reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (e.g., CT, DC, MA, MD, NY, RI, and VT).
- The U.S. Department of Energy (U.S. DOE) rolled back expected standards for general service lamps (“backstop standards”) set to take effect January 2020. They also failed to conduct several rulemakings mandated by federal law in 2019.
- In 2018, VT became the second Northeast state to successfully pass state-level standards legislation (CT passed legislation in 2011). The legislation included new standards for a large package of products as well as a backstop to all current federal standards and the EISA 2020 standard.
- In 2019, CT, DC, MA, ME, NY, and RI, all introduced state appliance standards legislation.

## NEEP's 2020 Project Outcomes:

1. At least six Northeast states propose new state appliance standards in 2020 (NY, MA, RI, CT, DC, ME, PA)
2. At least three Northeast states adopt new state appliance standards in 2020
3. At least 10 Northeast states and associated stakeholders actively engage (via co-signing comment letters) the U.S. DOE Appliance Standards and EPA Energy Star programs to increase product energy efficiency standards and criteria.

**Stakeholder Engagement:** NEEP engages a regional appliance standards stakeholder group to keep abreast of state and federal standards activity, as well as several state specific work groups to take action to support standards adoption.

- Northeast/Mid-Atlantic Appliance Standards Working Group
- In-Person State Standards workshop
- State-specific and cross-state work groups
- Topical blogs and working group updates

**Tracking and Analysis:** In coordination with national efforts, NEEP tracks opportunities to achieve significant energy savings from new state and federal appliance standards – several of which lock in the market gains of efficiency programs. We maintain a publicly accessible web-based resource center regarding Appliance Standards in the Northeast that provides:

- Tracking of federal appliance standards program activity and ENERGY STAR product specifications updates
- Tracking state appliance standard adoption and lessons learned which is shared quarterly with working group members

**Tools and Guidelines:** NEEP provides technical guidance to assist state efforts in adopting consistent state appliance standards and encouraging strong federal appliance standards.

- Direct Technical Assistance to stakeholders
- Sample letters of support for state or federal standards
- Links to national studies and analyses

**Research and Reports:** NEEP provides technical analyses and reports to compliment, support and disseminate the tracking and tools developed to encourage the adoption of state and federal appliance standards.

- Analyses and fact sheets to inform state-level appliance standards adoption
- Educational briefings and presentations to educate key stakeholders and decision makers
- Coordinated comments to U.S. DOE to encourage strong and timely federal standards and ENERGY STAR Specification revisions
- **New!** White Paper: Design Requirement Laws to Drive Market Adoption of Appliances with Connected or Grid-Interactive Functionality

**National/Regional Collaboration:** NEEP will leverage state and national resources and will coordinate regional support for national voluntary programs that establish specifications for and promote market adoption of high efficiency products.

- Coordination with national, regional, and state efforts across the U.S., including participation in the Appliance Standards Awareness Project (ASAP) Steering Committee, ASAP Technical Advisory Groups (TAGs) and the U.S. Climate Alliance

## Project Staff



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