



# Federal and 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*

## ABOUT THIS PROJECT

Appliance efficiency standards reduce electricity, gas, and water usage, making them an important element in the dual effort to create lasting change within the energy market and to reduce carbon emissions. Federal appliance and equipment standards offer huge potential to impact carbon use. In fact, by 2050, they 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. Additionally, if all states in our region adopted new state-level standards for products not covered federally, the region could save nearly 4.5 million metric tons annually by 2035 (ASAP 2017). 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, align efficiency programs with climate plans, and provide value as part of an integrated carbon reduction plan.

## LONG-TERM MARKET TRANSFORMATION GOALS

# 2022

At least four Northeast states adopt state appliance standards not covered by the federal program.

# 2025

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

## 2019 PROJECT OUTCOMES

1. At least six Northeast states propose new state appliance standards in 2019
2. At least two Northeast states adopt new state appliance standards in 2019
3. At least 10 Northeast states and associated stakeholders actively engage to encourage the U.S. DOE Appliance Standards and EPA Energy Star programs to keep pace and remain active to increase product energy efficiency.
4. The general service lighting (EISA 2020) standard moves forward as intended with a 45 lumen-per-watt minimum efficiency standard in 2020

# REGIONAL TRENDS & LEADERS

- State energy and climate stabilization plans include tighter appliance efficiency standards to provide affordable and reliable energy while reducing CO2 emissions (e.g., CT, DC, MA, MD, NY, RI, and VT).
- The U.S. Department of Energy (U.S. DOE) failed to conduct rulemakings or enact minimum appliance efficiency standards mandated by federal law in 2018 and beyond.
- The states of MA, NY, RI, and VT all considered state appliance standards legislation in 2018 including and even going further than those adopted by CA.
- In 2018, VT became the first Northeast state to successfully pass state-level standards legislation since 2011 (CT). 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.

## 2019 Strategies with Associated Products, Services and Technical Assistance

### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

NEEP engages a regional appliance standards stakeholder group to keep abreast of state and federal standards activity, as well as several task forces to take action to support standards adoption.

- Northeast/Mid-Atlantic Appliance Standards Working Group
- In-Person State Standards workshop
- Ad hoc coordination of state-specific and cross-state standard task forces
- Topical blogs and working group updates

### TRACKING & 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.

- **New** Online tracker, updated once a quarter, tracking the federal appliance standards program and ENERGY STAR product specifications updates
- Tracking state appliance standard adoption and lessons learned which is shared quarterly with working group members

### TOOLS & GUIDELINES

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

- Sample letters of support for state or federal standards
- Updates to state standards guidance document
- Links to national studies and analyses

### RESEARCH & 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

### 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 and the U.S. Climate Alliance and coordination with Natural Resources Defense Council, Environment America, Acadia Center, State of California, etc.