

ENERGY STAR® Partnership Agreement For Architect/Home Plan Designers (Supporting Information)



ENERGY STAR Background Information

EPA's ENERGY STAR helps consumers, businesses, and public organizations protect the environment through superior energy efficiency. ENERGY STAR for Homes promotes energy-efficient homes that can improve builder profitability, improve home quality and homeowner comfort, lower energy demand, and reduce air pollution. ENERGY STAR qualified homes are third-party verified to be significantly more energy efficient than homes built to code.* Savings are typically achieved through a combination of envelope upgrades, high performance windows, controlled air infiltration, upgraded heating and air conditioning systems, tight duct systems, upgraded waterheating equipment, and efficient lighting and appliances.

* Please visit the ENERGY STAR Web site at www.energystar.gov for information on current ENERGY STAR guidelines.

ENERGY STARs Commitments to Partners

1. Increase awareness of the ENERGY STAR label by distributing key messages on the benefits of ENERGY STAR qualified homes and homes-related products.
2. Provide current ENERGY STAR news, information, and reference documents (via the ENERGY STAR Web site, Hotline, e-mail or other means).
3. Provide ENERGY STAR partners with public recognition for their involvement in ENERGY STAR and role in protecting the environment through the online ENERGY STAR partner locator tool, special awards, and other media.
4. Respond swiftly to any partner requests for information or clarification on ENERGY STAR policies.

General Commitments for ENERGY STAR Partners

1. Use the partnership and the ENERGY STAR label to promote energy efficiency as an easy and desirable option for new homebuyers to prevent pollution, protect the environment, and save money on energy bills.
2. Adhere to the ENERGY STAR Identity Guidelines (available at www.energystar.gov/marks) and ensure that authorized representatives, such as advertising agencies, distributors, and subcontractors, also comply.
3. Adhere to the ENERGY STAR Web Linking Guidelines (available at www.energystar.gov/partners). Failure to do so can result in the loss of linking privileges from the ENERGY STAR Web site.
4. Build or label at least one ENERGY STAR qualified home within any ongoing 12-month period. Partners not fulfilling this requirement will be deemed 'inactive,' thereby forfeiting all rights to the ENERGY STAR name and mark, their listing on the online ENERGY STAR partner locator tool, and any inclusion in ENERGY STAR promotional materials.
5. Affix an ENERGY STAR label to all homes that are independently verified to meet the ENERGY STAR performance guidelines.

General Terms and Disclaimers

1. The partner will not construe, claim, or imply that its participation in ENERGY STAR constitutes federal government approval, acceptance, or endorsement of anything other than the partner's commitment to ENERGY STAR. Partnership does not constitute federal government endorsement of the partner or its homes or services.
2. The partner understands that the activities it undertakes in connection with ENERGY STAR are voluntary and not intended to provide services to the federal government. As such, the partner will not submit a claim for compensation to any federal agency.
3. The partner and ENERGY STAR will assume good faith as a general principle for resolving conflict and will seek to resolve all matters informally, so as to preserve maximum public confidence in ENERGY STAR.
4. This agreement is voluntary and can be terminated by either party at any time for any reason, with no penalty.
5. Failure to comply with any of the terms of this partnership agreement can result in its termination and cessation of access to the benefits of ENERGY STAR, including use of the marks.
6. ENERGY STAR will actively pursue resolution of noncompliance related to the use of the ENERGY STAR marks.