

For More Information Contact  
Marianne DiMascio at  
781-312-8999 or  
mdimascio@standardsasap.org

www.standardsasap.org

**Q & A** APPLIANCE STANDARDS  
**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

**The Scoop on Appliance Efficiency Standards**

**2015**

“ Standards save typical U.S. households about \$500 per year on utility bills. ”

**Who took all the wasted energy out of her 70’s-era fridge?**



**Appliance efficiency standards did!**

Refrigerators today use one-fourth the energy of a '70s-era fridge, thanks in large part to efficiency standards. That means a typical household saves over \$100 a year on energy bills. In fact, in the last 40 years, appliance and equipment efficiency standards have helped to bring down energy and water use for more than 50 products. Consumers and businesses save billions of dollars as a result. Standards guarantee a minimum level of energy and water efficiency for most major household appliances and products, and for many commercial products too.

**What else have energy standards done?**

- Saved typical U.S. households about \$500 per year on utility bills.<sup>1</sup>
- Reduced total U.S. electricity use by 7% in 2010; savings are projected to double to 14% in 2035.
- Cut emissions, improving public health and the air we breathe.
- Driven innovation as manufacturers compete to make products comply with new standards .
- Won bi-partisan support from across the political spectrum, because they work.

**She replaced this fridge with an Energy Star model. Isn't that enough?**

Voluntary programs like Energy Star encourage consumers to purchase efficient products. But not all consumers are as savvy as this woman and some don't have a choice. For example tenants are stuck with the appliances their landlords buy. Standards ensure that all products meet minimum efficiency levels. When a furnace or water heater fails, most people make a "panic purchase," taking whatever is on the

<sup>1</sup> Based on analysis of eight common appliances, including heating, cooling, and lighting.

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Standards have enjoyed broad bipartisan support over four decades and five presidencies.



contractor's truck. Standards ensure products chosen by contractors, builders, landlords, or consumers do not waste energy, even if the buyers don't have time to research energy efficiency.

### Can she save even more energy on cooling and heating?

Yes, air conditioners and furnaces are covered by standards, as are more than 50 household, commercial and industrial products. The Department of Energy (DOE) was busy in 2014, setting new or updated standards for 10 products. And more is on the agenda for 2015. Some of the pending standards are under review at the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB). In some cases, OMB reviews are taking much longer than the 90 days allowed, delaying the benefits from upgraded standards.

### Who supports these efficiency measures?

The list is long and varied. President Reagan signed the first national standards into law. Since then, standards have enjoyed broad bipartisan support over four decades and five presidencies. Manufacturers often support standards because they avoid a costly patchwork of state standards.

### What can policymakers do to keep these savings coming?

- **Oppose riders and bills that interfere with appliance efficiency standards.**
- **Ask the White House Office of Management and Budget to end delays in its review of pending standards and to more quickly review future standards.**
- **Encourage DOE to complete pending standards on schedule.**