

Biden’s Energy Department Could Slash Carbon Pollution, Energy Costs with Efficiency Standards

OVERVIEW: President-elect Biden pledged to set “aggressive” new appliance efficiency standards. Doing so could *save the average American household \$230 annually on utility bills by 2035* – and *cut carbon emissions over the next three decades by an amount equivalent to eliminating at least 13 coal-fired power plants.*

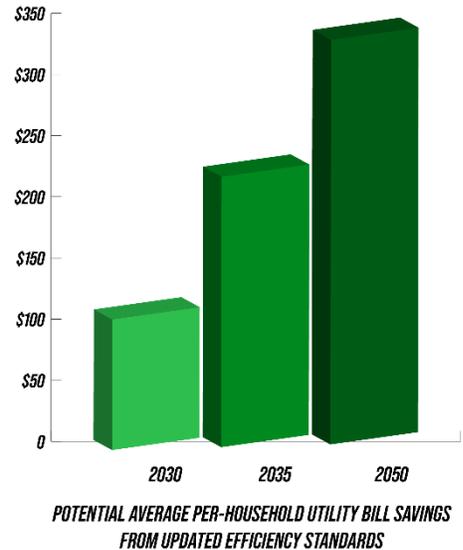
BACKGROUND: Appliance and equipment standards set minimum energy and water efficiency requirements for products such as water heaters, clothes washers, and electric motors. Existing national standards have made today’s products far more efficient than models from decades ago. But many standards have fallen behind advancing technologies – leaving an urgent opportunity ahead.

IMPACTS AT STAKE: A new report from ASAP and ACEEE found that by updating standards for 47 products, the Biden administration’s Department of Energy (DOE) could:

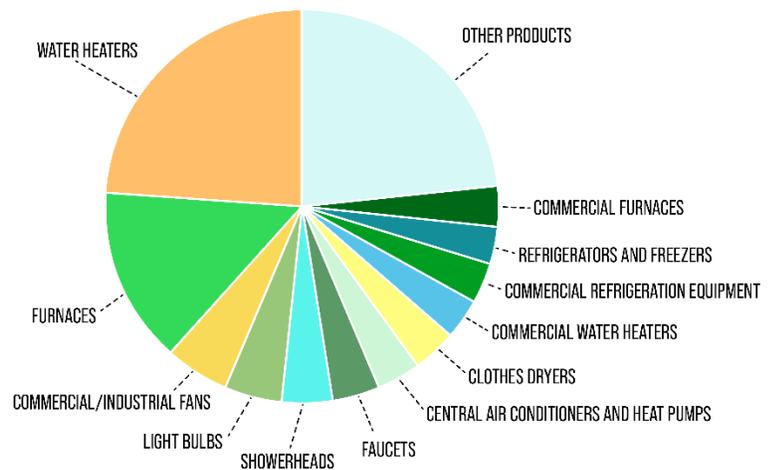
- Reduce cumulative CO₂ emissions through 2050 by 1.5–2.9 billion metric tons, which is equivalent to the emissions of approx. 13–25 average-size coal power plants over that period.¹
- Reduce annual average household utility bills by more than \$100 in 2030, by \$230 in 2035, and by nearly \$350 in 2050. The potential cumulative utility bill savings through 2050 for consumers and businesses are \$1.1 trillion.
- Reduce peak electricity demand by almost 90 GW by 2050, which is equivalent to about 13% of current total peak demand, enabling faster decarbonization of the electric grid at a lower cost.

THE AUTHORITY TO ACT NOW: By law, DOE must review each national appliance standard every six years and determine if an update is warranted. However, as of November 2020, DOE had missed legal deadlines for considering updates to 28 standards. These delays cause increased carbon emissions and higher energy costs for consumers. Another two dozen updates are coming due within the next four years. The Biden administration can start the process on day one to update appliance standards and lock in greenhouse gas reductions and utility bill savings.

The report is available at www.aceee.org/powerful-priority. For more information contact Andrew deLaski at adelaski@standardsasap.org or Alexander Ratner at aratner@aceee.org.



TOGETHER, UPDATED APPLIANCE STANDARDS COULD CUT CUMULATIVE CO₂ EMISSIONS BY 1.5 BILLION METRIC TONS BY 2050



¹ The range depends on the rate at which electricity production becomes less carbon intensive in the years ahead.