

# Creating a More Energy Efficient Future for Residential Customers The ENERGY STAR® Retail Products Platform



Hewan Tomlinson, US EPA 2016 ACEEE/CEE Market Transformation Symposium March 21, 2016





# **Today**

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- The Need for Change
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### What is ENERGY STAR®?

# The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's ENERGY STAR is:

- A voluntary partnership among government, business and consumers to save money and protect our climate through superior energy efficiency
- a widely recognized and trusted mark on products, homes and buildings that meet strict energy efficiency requirements
- the simple choice for energy efficiency!



Americans, with the help of ENERGY STAR, prevented over 300 million metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions and saved \$34 billion on their utility bills in 2014 alone.





# The Need for Change

- Shrinking per-unit energy savings and incentives
- Remaining rebates promote high price/large incremental cost products
- Shrinking retailer participation in traditional energy efficiency programs
  - Not core to business
  - Introduce cost and complexity
  - Small incentives do not influence customers
     Data for savings and program attribution hard to secure

#### Then (2004)



30% energy savings Mail-in rebates up to \$200 available.

#### Now (2016)



Cost-effective rebates closer to \$25

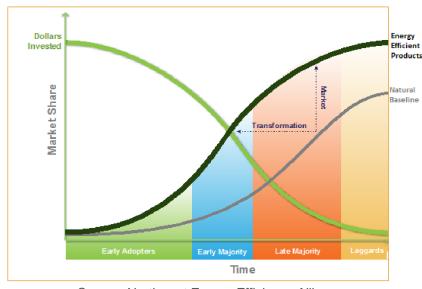
US retailers sell more than 2B products that use >80K GWh/year





#### What is the ENERGY STAR Retail Products Platform?

- Grassroots, coordinated alignment of energy efficiency programs with retailers' business models
- Collaborative national effort to achieve scale through consistent program design—product categories, specifications, data requirements, and midstream delivery
- Significant budgets and low administrative costs create strong value proposition for retailers
- Creates savings in growing "miscellaneous/plug load" product categories at significantly lower cost to program sponsors









#### **Process**

- Task group meetings
- Standards
- Templates
- Program coordination
- Retailer engagement

#### **PREPARATION**

- Vision
- Pilot plan–products, retailers
- Participation expectations
- Business case
- Decision-maker buy-in
- Budget estimates
- Assemble team

Participation
 Commitment

ENERGY STAR RPP PROCESS

- Program Launch
- **IMPLEMENTATION**
- Marketing
- Field services
- Data management
- Energy savings analysis
- Performance dashboard
- Incentive payment

- Gap Analysis
- Process Improvement
- Portfolio Changes

Measurement





ENERGY STAR RPP Stakeholders



**Program Sponsors** 







Retailers





# A Message from the ENERGY STAR Retail Action Council

(Scottsdale, AZ October 28, 2014)

- We support program sponsors efforts to build scale via the ENERGY STAR Retail Products Platform
- We believe the ESRPP is the future of energy efficiency programs, and the future is now!
- We are offering to help regulators recognize the energy saving opportunities
- We will assist innovative Program Sponsors who join together with the EPA transform the energy efficiency market











# **ESRPP** Retailer Participation Agreement

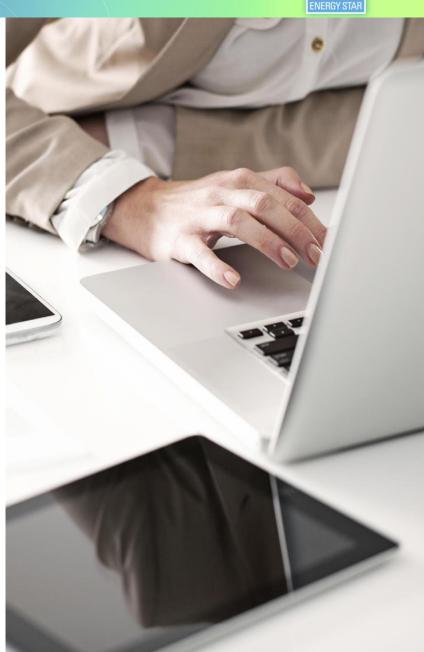
- Developed by retailers and program sponsors with provisions for
  - Common signage, marketing plans, data formats, data transmissions, field services Letters of Authorizations, and evaluation interviews with retail merchants and marketers
  - Customizable exhibits for program sponsor-specific requirements: store lists, qualifying products
- Includes many elements that are energy efficiency industry firsts
  - Ongoing category sales data
  - 12 months of historic sales data
  - Customers by store zip code analysis
  - A mutually created implementation plan
  - A common EM&V interview process





### **Data**

- Benefits
  - Program sponsors gain access to better data
  - Retailers benefit from consistent program structure
- Requirements
  - Model number
  - Sales Date
  - Zip code / Store ID
- Data solutions company
  - Secured by RFP







#### **Products**

The pilot was designed to

- Test a mix of different products
- Prove the program concept
- Streamline implementation

The 2016 pilot is currently limited to the following products:

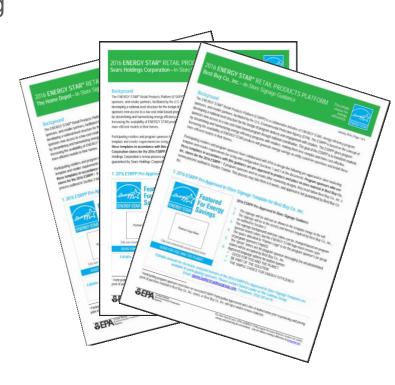
- ENERGY STAR certified dryers—new category
- ENERGY STAR certified air cleaners—small unit sales, high per unit energy savings
- ENERGY STAR certified freezers—difficult to administer cost effective downstream rebates
- ENERGY STAR certified sound bars (+15%)—high growth category, limited per unit savings
- ENERGY STAR certified room air conditioners—revised specification, positioned to influence stocking plans for 2016





# Marketing, Field Services, and Implementation

- Marketing: in-store signage
  - Retailers pre-approve, no turnaround time or review
  - Prominent program sponsor branding
  - Flexible color scheme and tagline for program sponsor brand alignment
- Implementation Plan
- Letters of Authorization
- Field Services Tool Kit







# **Evaluation—A Different Approach is Required**

- Currently under development by EPA and evaluation experts from CA, Northwest and the Northeast
- Task Force Goals
  - Assess strengths and weaknesses of various methods of evaluation
  - Address region-specific evaluation issues for peer exchange
  - Develop materials to facilitate successful evaluation
  - Address data needs for tracking and progress
- Coordinated interviews with participating retailers and key manufacturers of eligible ESRPP products





# Project Update: Who is Involved (as of March 2016)

## **2016 Participants**

- CA: PG&E, SMUD
- CO: Platte River Power Authority, Fort Collins Utilities, Loveland Water and Power, Longmont Power & Communications, and Estes Park Power & Light; Xcel Energy
- MN: Xcel Energy
- ID, MT, OR & WA: NEEA
- NY: Con Ed
- VT: Efficiency Vermont
- WI: Focus on Energy

# Over 500 store locations in first month!

# **In Planning for 2017**

- CT: Eversource CT, UIL Holdings
- DC: DC SEU
- MD: BGE, SMECO, PEPCO, Delmarva Power
- MI: DTE Energy
- NM: Xcel Energy (tentative)





# **Project Update: Up Next...**

- For 2016 pilots
  - ➤ Pilot Launch—Rolling launches began March 2016
  - ➤ Marketing, implementation plan, and field services toolkit—April 2016
  - Data platform—Final testing
  - ➤ 2016 Retailer Practices Baselines—Conducting retailer and manufacturer surveys
- For 2017 and beyond—Build platform and scale to support national energy savings!
  - Welcome new program participants
  - ➤ Evolve EM&V framework and resources
  - Finalize framework for product portfolio and specification transitions
  - ➤ Nominate 2017 product portfolio
  - Provide market data and program planning documents
  - > Develop onboarding resources for new participants





#### **Get Involved**

# **Getting Started**

- Contact EPA to discuss program concept and potential role
- Join the team and develop a pilot
- Help shape discussions with regulators and evaluators

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