

## What is meant by energy star?

# Part four Further details

Manufacturers of office equipment are responding to consumer desire for more environmentally sound products. An important driving force behind this trend has been the ENERGY STAR® program which was begun by the United States Environment Protection Agency (USEPA) in 1992.

Under the program, manufacturers can display the ENERGY STAR logo on their equipment if it meets established, ever-tightening energy efficiency standards.

The program started with standards for personal computers and monitors and has since expanded to cover photocopiers, printers, fax machines, scanners and devices that can print, fax and scan as well as photocopy, called “multifunction devices.”

In Australia, the National Energy Star Program is a cooperative energy efficiency program between the Commonwealth, State and Territory governments which promotes the purchase of ENERGY STAR office equipment. It is funded by the National Appliance and Equipment Energy Efficiency committee and managed by the New South Wales Sustainable Energy Development Authority (SEDA) on behalf of all jurisdictions.

Most commonly, ENERGY STAR features on office equipment involve an ability to power down or sleep when they’re not being used and wake up when they’re needed. Many products in the marketplace exceed ENERGY STAR requirements, although there is great variation in performance. Interestingly,

this often has little to do with price. As well as looking for the ENERGY STAR logo, it pays to ask questions about the actual power rating in different operating modes, and to shop around for the most efficient equipment.

To work, ENERGY STAR products must have their energy-saving features enabled when they leave the factory.

### Resources

A number of information sources and websites have been helpful in the preparation of this guide:

#### ORGANISATIONS:

Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF)  
Environment Victoria  
Department of Sustainability and Environment (Victoria)

#### WEBSITES:

##### resourceSmart

([http://www.resourcesmart.vic.gov.au/for\\_businesses.html](http://www.resourcesmart.vic.gov.au/for_businesses.html))

##### Australian National ENERGY STAR:

(<http://www.energystar.gov.au/>)

##### Energy Smart:

<http://energysmart.com.au>

##### Australian Greenhouse Office:

<http://www.greenhouse.gov.au>

##### Sustainable Energy Authority Victoria (SEAV):

<http://www.seav.vic.gov.au>

##### Environment Australia:

<http://www.ea.gov.au>

##### Appliance Energy Rating:

<http://www.energyrating.gov.au>

##### Green Power:

<http://www.greenpower.com.au/>

