

August 8, 2019

New Jersey BPU
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RE: Testimony for Energy Master Plan hearing, Newark

Please accept this testimony on behalf of the [Appliance Standards Awareness Project](#). We are a coalition project dedicated to advancing cost-effective appliance standards at both the national and state level.

We agree with the appliance standards recommendations (3.3.7) on pages 66-67 of the draft Energy Master Plan (EMP) and urge the NJ BPU to maintain these provisions in the final EMP in order to maximize energy efficiency and reap the many benefits. It's a win for NJ and something that can be implemented quickly.

We call appliance efficiency standards **the best energy and climate policy you've never heard of**. Though not always in a starring role, standards are the workhorses that garner significant savings. Most people are unaware that federal standards are already savings New Jersey consumers and businesses about \$530 a year in lower utility bills.¹ Products like refrigerators and washing machines, the lights in this room, air conditioning and heating, even exit signs have federal standards. But those that don't are ripe for federal standards

The NJ EMP recommends adopting a suite of state efficiency standards for products not currently covered by federal standards. Adopting state standards would **save energy and water, save money, reduce CO2 emissions, and help reduce peak demand**. For example, if NJ were to adopt the package of standards we recommend, the electricity savings in 2025 would over 550 GWh or equivalent to 2% of NJ residential electricity use.

Standards also address barriers to efficiency faced by low- and moderate-income consumers, particularly renters. Because of various market barriers, landlords don't always purchase efficient products, adding to monthly utility costs for low- and moderate-income households. Standards break through the market barriers, making efficient products accessible to all consumers.

New Jersey was a leader in this area but hasn't updated standards since 2005

In 2005, New Jersey was one of a dozen states after California to adopt state efficiency standards, but it's been fourteen years since those standards were updated. With standards stalled at the federal level, it's a perfect time for New Jersey to take the lead again. NJ would follow a handful of states that recently adopted standards – California, Colorado, Hawaii, Vermont, and Washington.

¹ From the 2017 ASAP/ACEEE White Paper, [Energy Saving States of America: How Every State Benefits from National Appliance Standards](#).

Authorize periodic review to prevent outdated standards

To prevent another fourteen-year lag between updates, we support the EMP recommendation to authorize NJBPU and NJDEP to review and potentially update standards every three years.

We agree with recommendation to guard against federal light bulb standards rollback

Laws in California, Colorado, Nevada, Vermont, and Washington protect consumers against the Trump administration efforts to eliminate light bulb standards that are due to go into effect in January 2020. This provision will protect New Jersey consumers from a senseless rollback. These light bulb standards will save a typical NJ household about \$145 a year.

In closing, we concur with the appliance standards recommendations in the EMP. Standards are a low-cost way for states to cut energy and water waste, lower utility bills, cut greenhouse gases, and reduce peak demand. And it's important to act now. A quote from the EMP sums up our recommendation:

“It is therefore crucial that the state consider legislation to adopt more stringent appliance standards immediately to reap the greatest benefits.”

We would be happy to provide further information, answer questions about appliance standards, or provide technical assistance should such need arise.

Sincerely,



Marianne DiMascio, State Policy Manager
Appliance Standards Awareness Project

Additional savings information:

Estimated annual savings for NJ residents, businesses, local and state governments in 2025 from adopting a suite of appliance standards:

- Over 550 GWh or enough electricity to power 64,000 New Jersey homes; **equivalent to 2% of all residential energy consumption in New Jersey**
- 6.1 billion gallons of water, equivalent to water consumption of 74,000 NJ households
- \$176 million on utility bills, rising to \$362 million per year by 2035
- 324,000 metric tons of CO₂, equivalent to emissions from about 69,000 cars for a year

