Energy Star: Description (6/93)

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TOPIC --

This article describes the Energy Star program.

DISCUSSION ---

Energy Star is a voluntary Environmental Protection Agency program that sets
energy use ceilings on computer products. The Energy Star program seeks to
identify and promote the use of energy efficient computer equipment to reduce
energy use and thereby reduce pollution.

Computers, monitors and printers can meet Energy Star program requirements by
always using less power than a specified amount or by going into a low-power
or "sleep" state. Printers must also go to a low-power state within a period
of time defined by performance category. All computers, monitors and printers
that meet these specifications can display the Energy Star logo.

Apple was one of three original companies contacted by the EPA to help design
the Energy Star program and has consistently been an enthusiastic supporter of
the program. Apple's goal is to make Energy Star products available across
the entire Macintosh product line as quickly as possible.

Many Apple products already meet Energy Star specifications. Other Apple
products can meet Energy Star specifications with the addition of third-party
devices which shut off power when the product is not being used.

Energy Star Specifications

Computers and monitors must be able to go to a low-power state either after a
period of inactivity or at a predetermined time selected by the user. For
computers, the low-power state can be activated with software that must be
specified by the computer manufacturer. This low-power state is defined as
drawing 30 watts or less of power. If the monitor is included in the computer
casing and isn't powered directly from a wall outlet, the entire system may
qualify by drawing 60 watts or less of power.

Printers must be able to go to a low-power state either after a period of

inactivity or maintain a low level of power consumption. For printers that
enter a low power state, the printer must activate a low-power state within the
times listed below.


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 Printer Speed        Default Time to Low Power   Max. Power Use in Low Power
(pages per min.)            (minutes)                     (watts)
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------
     1 to 7                    15                           30
     8 to 14                   30                           30
  15 and above,                60                           45
all color laser printers
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Note that computers, monitors and printers that always consume less than the
specified amount qualify for the Energy Star program.
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