
Do you ever wonder about the energy used to make the products that you buy? How much energy is used? What are its sources?

As energy awareness increases, North Americans are increasingly questioning the sources and quantity of energy used to produce consumer products.

Energy Sources

Our society utilizes coal, oil, natural gas, sunlight, wind, uranium and other energy sources to produce useful power for industry.

Typically, a large coal-burning power plant generates electricity that is then used by manufacturers to operate machinery and process materials. Manufacturers frequently use natural gas to heat or process chemicals, metals and other materials. Alternative energy sources such as solar and wind are becoming more popular.

Human labor provides another source of energy used by manufacturers. Although much human power has been replaced by other sources, it is still dominant in some industries.

Energy Inputs

Energy inputs are the amounts and types of energy utilized to produce goods and services. Energy inputs are different from the amount of energy a product contains. For example, coal contains more energy than is used to mine it. A silicon chip contains less energy than is used to produce it. Rather, energy inputs are a measure of how much energy is required to make a product.

Energy Input Labeling

Energy Input Labeling (EIL) is the practice of stating energy used and its sources on the labels of products. EIL provides consumers with information to increase their energy consciousness and make more informed decisions.

Energy Input Labeling is different than product labeling that mentions how much energy a products consumes when used or its energy efficiency. Rather, EIL counts up the energy used by the producer's machinery, labor, lighting and other sources. Energy used to produce raw materials and parts are also counted if possible.

Energy Labeling Guidelines

Manufacturers and service providers can use the Energy Input Labeling Standards to determine and report energy inputs into their goods and services. Both sources of energy and quantities used will appear on labels of products of participants.

These Standards have been developed to be simple to use rather than comprehensive. Improvements will be made in the future.



Services Can Be Energy Input Labeled, Too

Although services are not tangible products, they still cost energy to provide, and can be labeled, too.



For Producers

Are you interested in becoming an Energy Input Labeler? It's easy to implement your own program.

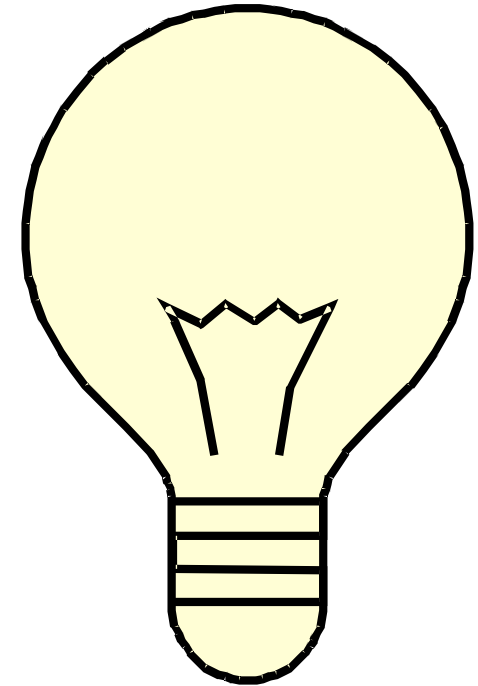
Benefits Include:

- Improved understanding of your energy costs
- Differentiation from competitors
- Improved customer loyalty
- Potential preferred vendor status from business customers who adopt EIL.

For More Information:

www.energyinputlabeling.org

Revised March 16, 2008.



Energy Input Labeling

For The Energy-Conscious Consumer
