

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **PANASONIC SETS NEW STANDARD IN ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP WITH FIFTH CONSECUTIVE ENERGY STAR® PARTNER OF THE YEAR AWARD**

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (April 16, 2003)** – Panasonic has again been named ENERGY STAR® Partner of the Year by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) for its outstanding efforts in helping to protect the environment. The company's commitment to manufacturing and promoting energy efficient products was recognized at an awards ceremony on April 15 in Washington D.C. Panasonic is distinguished as the sole consumer electronics marketer to be honored with the prestigious award for the fifth consecutive year.

The ENERGY STAR program is a partnership between the U.S. EPA, the DOE, product manufacturers, retailers and utilities, formed to promote the manufacture and use of energy-saving products. The program's ultimate goal is to curb greenhouse gas emissions. Consumers also save hundreds of millions of dollars annually in electricity bills. Award Winners are selected from thousands of organizations that participate in the ENERGY STAR program.

More than 455 Panasonic product models — including televisions, VCRs, TV-VCR combination units, DVD players, audio receivers, mini-component systems, cordless telephones, copiers, printers, scanners, room air conditioners and compact fluorescent lamps — meet or exceed ENERGY STAR performance levels.

“Panasonic continually strives to raise awareness of the importance of energy efficiency and conservation, and has demonstrated its commitment to the ENERGY STAR initiatives in offering a large range of ENERGY STAR-qualified products for consumer,

business and industrial use,” said Don Iwatani, chairman and CEO of Matsushita Electric Corporation of America (“Panasonic”). “Panasonic and our parent company, Matsushita Electric, are dedicated to the prudent, sustainable use of the earth’s resources and to protecting the environment. As such, we strive to develop energy-efficient products, support electronics recycling programs, and to promote clean manufacturing and environmentally-conscious waste disposal practices worldwide.”

“We are delighted to again acknowledge Panasonic, for the fifth straight year, as a leader in manufacturing and promoting energy-efficient products,” said Kathleen Hogan, director of EPA’s Climate Protection Partnership Division. “As of 2002, more than 1 billion ENERGY STAR-labeled products have been purchased in the U.S., bringing great savings to consumers while helping to protect the environment for future generations. The ENERGY STAR program couldn’t be such a success without the commitment of partners like Panasonic.”

ENERGY STAR-qualified TVs, VCRs and combination units use about 25% less energy than standard units. Consumers who choose ENERGY STAR-labeled products help prevent global warming and promote cleaner air without sacrificing quality and performance.

By choosing ENERGY STAR-qualified products, the typical household can save up to 30 percent on its energy bills, or about \$400 a year. Last year alone, ENERGY STAR helped Americans save enough energy to power 15 million homes and reduce the air pollution equivalent to taking 14 million cars off the road – all while saving \$7 billion dollars on their energy bills.

Matsushita Electric Corporation of America (“Panasonic”), headquartered in Secaucus, NJ, is the principal North American subsidiary of Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd., (NYSE:MC) of Japan, one of the world’s largest developers and producers of innovative electronic and electric products for consumer, business and industrial use. The company is a global leader in the total number of facilities – currently 248 – registered to the ISO14000 environmental standard. For more information on Panasonic products, visit [www.panasonic.com](http://www.panasonic.com).

#### About ENERGY STAR

ENERGY STAR was introduced by the US Environmental Protection Agency in 1992 as a voluntary market-based partnership to reduce air pollution through increased energy efficiency. Today, with assistance from the Department of Energy, the ENERGY

STAR program offers businesses and consumers energy-efficient solutions to save energy, money and help protect the environment for future generations. More than 7,000 organizations have become ENERGY STAR partners and are committed to improving the energy efficiency of products, homes and businesses. For more information about ENERGY STAR, visit [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov) or call toll-free 1-888-STAR-YES (1-888-782-7937).

### **ENERGY STAR® FAST FACTS\*:**

- The energy we use in our homes causes more greenhouse gas emissions than driving our cars.
- In the average home, 75% of the electricity used to power home electronics is consumed while the products are turned off. Across the U.S., this equals the annual output of 12 power plants and costs consumers over \$1 billion each year.
- If half of all U.S. households replaced their regular TV with an ENERGY STAR model, the change would be like shutting down a power plant.
- Replacing a 10-year-old room air conditioner with a new ENERGY STAR-qualified model could save up to \$20 a year on electricity.
- If one household in 10 bought ENERGY STAR heating and cooling equipment, the change would prevent 17 billion pounds of air pollution.
- A typical household spends about 10-15% of its annual electric bill on lighting – mostly due to inefficient fixtures and bulbs.
- ENERGY STAR qualified lighting uses about two-thirds less energy to operate. Saving energy means you save money on your utility bill. Changing the world starts with simple actions – as simple as replacing a light bulb or fixture in your home with an ENERGY STAR qualified one. If one room in every house were brightened by ENERGY STAR lighting, we'd keep one trillion pounds of pollution out of our air.
- When every home office is powered by equipment that has earned the ENERGY STAR, the change will keep over 219 billion pounds of greenhouse gases out of the air.

- If all cordless phones, answering machines, and combination units sold in the U.S. during the next ten years were ENERGY STAR-qualified, consumers would save \$4.4 billion on their electricity bills.
- More than 1,200 manufacturers produce more than 18,000 individual product models in more than 35 categories that have earned the ENERGY STAR. More than 3,000 homebuilders are now ENERGY STAR partners.
- One hundred thousand new homes have earned the ENERGY STAR, saving homeowners more than \$26 million annually on their utility bills.



April 17, 2003, Washington, D.C., — EPA Administrator Christine Todd Whitman presents the prestigious 2003 Energy Star Partner of the Year Award to Panasonic Vice President Robert Greenberg. Panasonic is the only consumer electronics marketer to be honored for its outstanding efforts in manufacturing and promoting energy-efficient products for the fifth consecutive year.

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\* Source: [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov)

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