



New Jersey Board of Public Utilities

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact:
Doyal Siddell
973-468-8515

NEW JERSEY'S CLEAN ENERGY PROGRAM™ HELPS RESIDENTS SAVE MONEY BY RECYCLING OLD REFRIGERATORS AND FREEZERS

*Customers receive \$50 plus free pick up of old refrigerators and freezers –
New Jersey benefits from reduced greenhouse gas emissions and improved energy efficiency*

NEWARK, N.J. – Refrigerators and freezers manufactured before 1990 can use up to three times more electricity than newer appliances and can cost a typical household \$150 a year to run. The removal and recycling of an old, inefficient refrigerator or freezer will help homeowners save money by lowering their electric use, while helping to protect the environment by reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Since 2001, federal energy efficiency standards have resulted in new refrigerators and freezers that consume less energy. Current models use about 450 kWh annually, compared to older units that consume up to 1,500 kWh per year.

New Jersey residents can now receive \$50 for turning in older, inefficient refrigerators and freezers, a \$20 increase from the original incentive offered by the Refrigerator/Freezer Recycling through New Jersey's Board of Public Utilities' (BPU) Clean Energy Program (CEP). In addition to the \$50 incentive and the free, in-home pick up service, customers will also experience significant energy cost savings. More than 6,000 refrigerators and freezers in New Jersey were recycled in 2009 which is equivalent to more than \$7.2 million in lifetime energy cost savings.

The *Refrigerator/Freezer Recycling* program is not a traditional rebate program since purchase of a new appliance is not necessary. To receive the \$50, New Jersey customers only have to schedule a pick up to have their old, working refrigerator or freezer removed. The process is simple and convenient for consumers. Appliance recycler, JACO Environmental, will then take the old unit to its recycling plant in East Brunswick, NJ. There, refrigerators and freezers are recycled through a process that returns 95 percent of their materials back to manufacturing. The recycling process also safely extracts various toxic components that are found inside refrigerators, including contaminated oils, mercury and CFCs, which may deplete the ozone layer.

-More-

To schedule a pick up of a refrigerator or freezer for recycling, customers of Atlantic City Electric, Jersey Central Power & Light, PSE&G, and Rockland Electric Company may call 877-270-3520 or visit NJCleanEnergy.com. Both refrigerators and freezers are eligible for the recycling program. The program is limited to removal of two units per household. Appliances to be recycled must be in working order and between 10 and 30 cubic feet, using inside measurements.

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About the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU)

The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities is a state agency and regulatory authority mandated to ensure safe, adequate and proper utility services at reasonable rates for New Jersey customers. Critical services regulated by the NJBPU include natural gas, electricity, water, wastewater, telecommunications and cable television. The Board has general oversight responsibility for monitoring utility service, responding to consumer complaints, and investigating utility accidents. To find out more about the NJBPU, visit our web site at www.nj.gov/bpu.

About the New Jersey Clean Energy Program (NJCEP)

New Jersey's Clean Energy Program, established on January 22, 2003, in accordance with the Electric Discount and Energy Competition Act (EDECA), provides financial and other incentives to the State's residential customers, businesses and schools that install high-efficiency or renewable energy technologies, thereby reducing energy usage, lowering customers' energy bills and reducing environmental impacts. The program is authorized and overseen by the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU), and its website is www.njcleanenergy.com.