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Focus on Energy Administering Appliance Rebate Program Through Federal Recovery Act

-New rebates will help all Wisconsin residents become more energy efficient-

MADISON, Wis. (Jan. 4, 2010) – Effective Jan. 1, 2010, as part of funding awarded to the state under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), all Wisconsin residents now have the opportunity to become more energy efficient while saving money through a new State Energy Efficient Appliance Rebate Program. The program offers Cash-Back Rewards on high efficiency appliances and equipment, and is being administered through Focus on Energy, Wisconsin’s statewide energy efficiency and renewable energy resource. The program is meant to encourage the replacement and proper recycling of old units with new high-efficiency units.

“A significant amount of our homes’ energy use comes from appliances, heating and cooling equipment and water heaters,” said Sara Van de Grift, Focus on Energy Residential Programs Director. “That’s why replacing old units with new energy efficient ones can make a difference in the lives of residents throughout the state. Not only is it good for the environment, it can help families save significantly on their utility bills.”

What is the State Energy Efficient Appliance Rebate Program?

Under the new program, consumers can receive Cash-Back Rewards to purchase new ENERGY STAR[®] qualified or high-efficiency appliances when they replace their used appliances. The amount of the Reward varies depending on what kind of unit is being replaced. Appliances include refrigerators, clothes washers, dishwashers, freezers, boilers, central air conditioners, furnaces, heat pumps, and water heaters. The Cash-Back Rewards are not retroactive.

Consumers will receive a mail in Reward application at the time of purchase directly from their retailer or contractor. Within 30 days consumers will need to fill out the form and attach a copy of the purchase receipt. For appliances containing refrigerant such as central air conditioners, refrigerators, and freezers the consumer will also need to provide proof of recycling.

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There are several options for achieving the program's recycling requirements including:

- **Recycling via retailers.** Many retailers offer pick-up of the old appliance as part of the delivery of the new unit purchased.
- **Recycling via municipal programs, utility programs, or private recycling services.** Consumers who choose to recycle their old unit through a recycling program or service must provide a copy of the paperwork along with a copy of the invoice for the purchase of a new qualified model in order to be eligible for the rebate.
- **Recycling via utility programs.** Several municipal and cooperative utilities in Wisconsin offer appliance turn in programs for their customers.
- **Recycling via contractors.** Consumers replacing their old central air conditioners through the program will be allowed to work with their HVAC contractor to recycle and dispose of the old unit.

In addition to traditional water heaters, solar hot-water systems are also eligible for a Cash-Back Reward. Consumers must first submit an application to Focus on Energy to ensure the solar hot-water system meets program requirements. Upon approval of the application, consumers will have 60 days to install the system and submit a final invoice.

To learn more about the program, call (800) 762-7077 or visit focusonenergy.com/recovery.

About Focus on Energy

Focus on Energy works with eligible Wisconsin residents and businesses to install cost-effective energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. Focus information, resources, and financial incentives help to implement projects that otherwise would not be completed, or to complete projects sooner than scheduled. Its efforts help Wisconsin residents and businesses manage rising energy costs, promote in-state economic development, protect our environment, and control the state's growing demand for electricity and natural gas. For more information, call (800) 762-7077 or visit focusonenergy.com.

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