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Contact: Efficiency Vermont, Jon Floyd
802-860-4095 x1165
Laura Langerwerf
530-521-2431

**EFFICIENCY VERMONT LAUNCHES NEW REFRIGERATOR / FREEZER
RECYCLING PROGRAM**

Company offers customers chance to save up to \$150 annually, \$30 rebate, plus free pickup of old, energy wasting refrigerators and freezers

SWANTON, VT – Today Efficiency Vermont launched its new Refrigerator/Freezer Recycling Program with the pick up of the first unit at the home of Ellsworth Moore in Swanton.

For Moore and thousands of other Vermont residents, turning in older energy-wasting refrigerators and freezers makes sense on many levels, but primarily because it's a great way to save money — and help save the environment by using less electricity.

Under this new program, Vermont electric utility customers can turn in their old refrigerator or freezer and receive a \$30 incentive and free haul a way of their old unit. Plus, customers can save up to \$150 a year on their electric bill by removing an old, inefficient refrigerator or freezer.

A healthy potential exists in Vermont for cutting energy if residents agree to have older refrigerators and freezers picked up and recycled, according to a survey prepared for the Vermont Department of Public Service. The reason is that units manufactured before 1990 consume three times more electricity than newer appliances and many VT homes have those old appliances in their garages or basement. Among the survey's findings:

- Second refrigerators were found in one-quarter of homes and second freezers were found in 34 percent of residences statewide;
- Thirty percent of all refrigerators and one-half of the freezers within the surveyed homes were 15 years or older; and
- St. Albans residents topped the list for keeping secondary, older refrigerators. North Chittenden residents were the most likely to keep secondary freezers in homes.

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“The removal of an extra, inefficient refrigerator or freezer will save money for homeowners by eliminating an electricity waster. Plus, the proper recycling of the old units will help protect the environment,” said Michael Russom, Retail Efficient Products Market Manager for Efficiency Vermont.

Efficiency Vermont’s program vendor, JACO Environmental, removes the appliances from residents’ homes at no charge to the homeowner. JACO then transports the units to its recycling facility in Franklin, Mass. where they are dismantled and disposed of in an environmentally responsible manner. Approximately 95 percent of each unit will be recycled including metals, plastic, oils and the foam insulation. The foam removed from the appliances contains chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) gases which, if improperly disposed of can have harmful effects on the ozone. JACO removes and bags the foam and then has it incinerated where the heat generated from that incineration process is then used to create new energy.

“There are many ways for people to reduce their energy consumption and impact on the environment. Recycling a refrigerator ranks near the top. It works for the planet, it works for your wallet and it works for conserving our precious resources,” said Michael Dunham, director of energy and environmental programs for JACO.

Since 2001, federal standards require new refrigerators and freezers to consume less energy. Current models use about 450 kilowatt-hours (kWh) annually, compared to older units that burn through, on average, 1,500 kWh per year.

To schedule the pick up of an old refrigerator or freezer for recycling, Vermont electric utility customers can call 1-877-545-4113 or visit www.encyvermont.com. Customers will receive a check for \$30 four to six weeks after collection of the appliance.

The program is limited to the removal of two units per household and available to residential electric customers in certain areas of Vermont in 2009. It is planned to offer this service state-wide in 2010. Appliances to be recycled must be in working order with an inside measurement of 10 cubic feet or more. Residential customers should call or visit the web site to see if they are eligible.

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