

Search for Solutions

Keeping our energy reliable and affordable



Cash for Appliances

Federal funds back state-run rebate programs to make homes more energy-efficient and stimulate the economy

Thanks to \$300 million in funding from the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, consumers can cash in when replacing home appliances with models certified energy efficient by the Energy Star program.

Each state is administering its own “Cash for Appliances” program, setting qualifications, selecting which appliances to include and rebate amounts. Programs end when funds are exhausted. In most cases, purchases must be made in-state and redeemed within 30 days of purchase.

Alaska: \$658,000; allocated for residents with disabilities. Rebates on refrigerators and freezers (\$300 or \$500), and clothes washers and dishwashers (\$150 or \$300), are larger for rural residents because of the higher cost of buying and shipping them. Visit www.ahfc.state.ak.us/energy or call (877) 257-3228.

Arizona: \$6,237,000; dishwashers (\$75 to \$125), gas water heaters (\$200 to \$300), clothes washers (\$125 to \$200). Rebates—which vary based on efficiency—were claimed in less than four hours and had to be redeemed by May 12. Visit www.azcommerce.com/energy.

California: \$35,267,000; room air conditioners (\$50), clothes washers (\$100), refrigerators (\$200). All residents are eligible. Visit www.energy.ca.gov.

Idaho: \$1,462,000; clothes washers (\$75), dishwashers (\$50), refrigerators (\$75), room air conditioners (\$25), water heaters (\$150), air-source heat pumps (\$250), oil furnaces (\$110), gas furnaces (\$125), oil boilers (\$300), gas boilers

(\$200). Consumers can reserve funds at www.seearpwards.com/idaho or by calling (877) 223-6975. Reservations are valid for three days. Visit www.energy.idaho.gov/stimulus or call (208) 287-4911.

Montana: \$928,000; refrigerators (\$100), freezers (\$70), clothes washers (\$100), dishwashers (\$50). Visit deq.mt.gov or call (406) 841-5202.

Nevada: \$2,495,000; refrigerators (\$200), freezers (\$150), washing machines (\$150), dishwashers (\$100). Customers must buy from participating retailers. Reserve rebates at www.nevadaappliancerebate.com before buying. Call (775) 687-1850 for information.

New Mexico: \$1,904,000; refrigerators, clothes washers and gas furnaces (\$200). Visit nmarp.efi.org.

Oregon: \$3,636,000; replace and recycle about 1,800 nonfunctioning or low-efficiency furnaces and heat pumps for households earning less than 60 percent of the state’s median income levels. Community Action Program (CAP) representatives receive a rebate for 70 percent of the equipment, up to \$2,000. CAP covers remaining costs. Visit www.oregon.gov/energy or call (800) 221-8035.

Utah: \$2,626,000; clothes washers (\$75), room air conditioners (\$30), gas furnaces (\$300), tankless gas water heaters (\$300), gas storage water heaters (\$50). Visit www.cashforappliancesutah.com.

Washington: \$6,284,000; refrigerators (\$75), clothes washers (\$100). All state residents are eligible. Visit www.cashforapplianceswa.com or call (877) 304-9225. ■

ENERGY TIP: If you purchase an energy-efficient product or renewable energy system for your home, you may be eligible for a federal tax credit of 30 percent of the cost, up to \$1,500. Many of the rebates expire December 31, 2010. For specific requirements, see http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=tax_credits.tx_index.



Cash for Caulkers, Too?

In May, House lawmakers approved a \$6 billion measure that would give rebates to homeowners who invest in energy-efficiency improvements.

The Home Star Energy Retrofit Act—better known as “cash for caulkers”—is a signature piece of President Obama’s job-creation strategy.

Widely supported by Democrats and overwhelmingly rejected by Republicans, it authorizes creation of the program, but does not appropriate funds needed to run it. Republicans added language that bars it from expanding the federal deficit.

The Senate is expected to take up the legislation later this summer.

The program would offer rebates of as much as 50 percent, up to \$3,000, for energy-saving efforts such as insulation improvements and replacement of windows, doors, heating and cooling systems. Installations would have to be completed by qualified contractors. Homeowners who make improvements on their own would receive rebates of up to 50 percent, to a maximum of \$250, on air sealing and insulation products.

The bill includes reimbursements for those who conduct comprehensive energy audits. Homeowners who trim their energy usage by at least 20 percent could receive up to \$8,000 in rebates.

The program also would distribute \$600 million to states for grants to help owners of mobile homes replace pre-1976 models with energy-efficient ones.