

For Immediate Release:  
January 25, 2010

## **Appliance Rebate to be Offered During Presidents Week**

In an effort to help stimulate the economy and promote a cleaner environment, New York State will provide consumers with a special rebate offer when they purchase ENERGY STAR-rated refrigerators, clothes washers, freezers and dishwashers during Presidents Week 2010, Feb. 12-21.

On average, homeowners spend about \$2,200 per year on energy bills. By purchasing ENERGY STAR-rated appliances, consumers have the ability to save up to \$75 per year, plus help save the environment. ENERGY STAR-qualified appliances incorporate advanced technologies that use 10 to 50 percent less energy and water than standard models, according to [energystar.gov](http://energystar.gov). The State rebate program, which is funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, will likely issue more than 170,000 rebates, totaling \$16.8 million.

Customers purchasing appliances during Presidents Week may qualify for the following individual rebates: \$75 for refrigerators or \$105 with documented recycling of an old refrigerator; \$75 for clothes washers or \$100 with documented recycling of an old clothes washer; and \$50 for freezers or \$75 with documented recycling an old freezer. Dishwasher rebates are only available when purchased as part of an approved three-appliance package, including a dishwasher, refrigerator and clothes washer. Such purchases will qualify for a \$500 rebate, with an additional \$50 if the consumer recycles an old appliance and has documentation of it.

During this one-week only special offer, many retailers may offer free recycling to make it easier to receive the maximum rebate.

This offer is a great way to save money during these tough economic times and at the same time help the environment. I understand the burden that high energy costs can have on a household, and that's why I, along with my colleagues, have been working in the Assembly to expand energy assistance programs like the ENERGY STAR rebate offer.

Other ways to save on home energy costs include weatherization and energy efficient measures. Below are some easy tips for water and electricity savings that can save homeowners money monthly. Lower the water heater temperature to 120 degrees, add insulation to the water heater and hot water pipes, use water-conserving showerheads and faucet aerators, replace old light bulbs with fluorescent bulbs, turn off lights and other appliances that aren't in use, take shorter showers, and turn down the brightness on the television set and computer monitor.

Consumers can save on heating bills by lowering the thermostat before bed and before leaving the house and adding insulation, caulking and weather stripping around

doors, windows, attics and other potential heat leaks. Ensure floor and wall vents are not blocked by furniture or rugs, also open the blinds or drapes to allow sunlight in, buy insulated drapes to keep the cold air out at night, clean the furnace filter monthly, and ask about payment and price protection plans. For more information on ways to save, visit [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov).

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