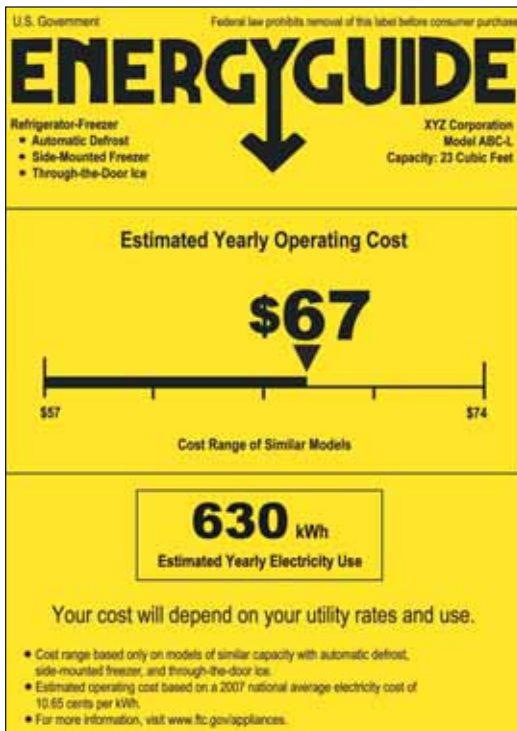


Rebates available for upgrading to energy-efficient appliances



Illinois residents have the opportunity to earn rebates for purchasing energy-efficient appliances — everything from furnaces to refrigerators — to replace older, inefficient models.

The Illinois ENERGY STAR Appliance Rebate Program is funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, commonly known as the federal stimulus bill, and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. The program is being rolled out in two phases.

The first phase, which started Jan. 31, offers rebates on qualifying heating and cooling equipment and water heaters at participating contractors and retailers. The program will continue as long as funding lasts.

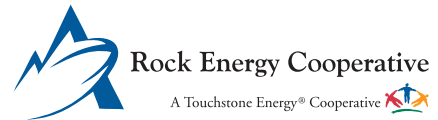
Consumers can receive rebates of \$350 on a gas furnace, \$500 on central air conditioning, \$1,000 on air source

heat pumps, and \$1,200 on gas boilers. A 25 percent markdown is offered on qualifying water heaters.

The second phase runs from April 16–25 and includes point-of-purchase rebates on qualifying refrigerators, freezers, clothes washers, dishwashers, and room air conditioners from participating retailers. This phase is timed to coincide with Earth Day on April 22.

These appliances will qualify for a 15 percent markdown, and consumers will be eligible for a mail-in rebate of \$50 to \$100 when the old appliance is recycled.

For more information on the program, call (877) 782-7005 or visit www.illinoisenergy.org/appliances.



Look for the ENERGY STAR label

When consumers shop for new appliances, it's common to focus on finding a product with an ENERGY STAR rating. But how do appliances get this rating?

Computers and monitors were the first products to receive an efficiency rating from ENERGY STAR, a program launched in 1992 by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Department of Energy. Since then, more than 60 product categories have been added, from dishwashers to windows and DVD players. According to the program, ENERGY STAR-rated products deliver the same or better performance as comparable models while using less energy and saving money.

For example, qualified refrigerators must be at least 15

percent more efficient than the minimum federal efficiency standard. By pushing for the manufacturing of more efficient products, ENERGY STAR estimates the rating system saved businesses, organizations, and consumers \$19 billion in 2008 alone.

Consumers are taking advantage of the program. A survey by the Consortium for Energy Efficiency discovered that 76 percent of American households recognize the ENERGY STAR brand. Of these consumers, 73 percent purchased an ENERGY STAR product within the last year.

These products can be recognized by their yellow EnergyGuide labels. Check the labels of various models before you buy. The difference on your monthly utility bill can be significant, especially when

considered over the 10- to 20-year life of the appliance. So you could save money in the long run by choosing a model that's more energy-efficient, even if the purchase price is higher.

To learn more about the ENERGY STAR program, visit www.energystar.gov.

