

Media release

COWLITZ COUNTY PUD

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PUD Launches Refrigerator-Freezer Recycling Program

Cowlitz PUD's newest residential energy conservation program offers customers a \$30 check for recycling an old refrigerator or freezer.

"An old refrigerator can use a lot of electricity, which really becomes wasteful and costly if it's only being used to store a few items. This program offers our customers an incentive to safely recycle an old refrigerator or freezer, and on top of that they will reduce their electric bill pretty significantly," PUD Conservation Manager Jim Wellcome said.

The majority of spare refrigerators can use 3-4 times the energy of newer models. A typical 20-year-old refrigerator or freezer consumes an average of 1,500 kilowatt hours annually, which would cost a PUD customer about \$77 a year in electricity charges.

The PUD has teamed up with JACO Environmental on the recycling program, which started in late April. Residential customers can schedule a curbside pickup of up to two refrigerators/freezers by calling JACO toll free at (877) 577-0510 or can schedule a pick-up online at www.cowlitzpud.org. The incentive check is mailed 4-6 weeks after appliance collection.

To qualify, the refrigerator or freezer must be in working condition and 10-30 cubic feet in size. Units must also be 1995 models or older. The program is for Cowlitz PUD customers only, although some other nearby utilities offer similar programs.

JACO recycles about 95 percent of the materials used to manufacture a refrigerator or freezer and safely disposes of the toxins and ozone-depleting chlorofluorocarbon gases from foam insulation. Proper recycling of the foam insulation and refrigerant in the cooling circuit prevents the release of CO² into the atmosphere.

For more details about refrigerator-freezer recycling, contact Cowlitz PUD's Energy Conservation Department at (360) 577-7514, (800) 631-1131 or mailbox@cowlitzpud.org.

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