

# North Carolina Department of Commerce

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## **430 STORES IN 146 TOWNS SIGN UP FOR APPLIANCE REBATE PROGRAM** *Discounts to Be Offered on Refrigerators, Freezers, Dishwashers and Washing Machines April 22-25*

**RALEIGH** – Consumers throughout North Carolina will not need to travel far to find a store offering special discounts on designated Energy Star-rated appliances during the state’s four-day Energy Star Appliance Replacement and Rebate Program. More than 430 retail locations in 146 towns have registered to participate in the program, which will provide North Carolina residents with a 15 percent rebate when they buy Energy Star-rated refrigerators, freezers, clothes washers or dishwashing machines.

The program begins on Earth Day, April 22, and runs through April 25. A list of participating retailers is available on the N.C. Energy Office’s Web site, [www.energync.net](http://www.energync.net), at the Energy Star “Get the Facts” logo. The Energy Office is also encouraging retailers to offer additional sales and discounts on those days.

“Appliance retailers know there is very strong interest from consumers who want to take advantage of these discounts to save on appliances and save energy,” said Ward Lenz, director of the Commerce Department’s N.C. Energy Office. “This very strong interest on the part of the stores around the state means people should be able to find the appliances they want at good prices at their favorite stores and close to where they live.”

The N.C. Energy Office has worked closely with the N.C. Retail Merchants Association, appliance manufacturers and retailers to develop the program. “Retailers in North Carolina see this as a special opportunity to both serve their customers and generate business,” said Fran Preston, president of the state Retail Merchants Association. “We expect this will be a win for our stores, our customers, our economy and in energy savings.”

Prior to the start of the sales event, retailers will receive training in how the program works. The rebates are being funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and offered by the N.C. Energy Office through the U.S. Department of Energy. The program allows consumers to replace older refrigerators, freezers, washing machines and dishwashers with similar new Energy Star-rated items during the Earth Day weekend.

Individual energy savings for households can be significant. For example, a new Energy Star-rated refrigerator uses half the electricity as the same-size refrigerator built before 1995. By replacing older appliances with the 49,960 Energy Star items expected to be purchased during the program period, enough electricity will be saved to power 536 homes for a year. Natural gas savings would serve 390 homes for a year.

North Carolina received \$8.8 million through the federal Recovery Act to participate in the Energy Star Appliance Replacement and Rebate program. The program will be conducted in two phases, with a second phase planned for June, depending on the availability of funds after the Earth Day weekend in April.

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