

News Release

For Immediate Release

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Recycling Rewards Offered for Old Refrigerators and Freezers

To motivate people to rid their homes of old, inefficient appliances, two local utility providers are offering incentive-based recycling programs to their customers.

Xcel Energy

Focus on Energy provides Dunn County Xcel Energy customers with a residential Appliance Recycling Program that will pick up refrigerators and freezers for free in exchange for a cash-back recycling reward. The Appliance Recycling Program recycles appliances in an “environmentally responsible way, breaking down each part to properly recycle it—keeping 95% of the appliance out of landfills.”

According to Focus on Energy, refrigerators built before 1993 can use two to three times more energy than newer, high-efficiency models. “Many homeowners keep a second fridge or stand-alone freezer in their garage or basement. Recycling these appliances can save you approximately \$150 (per appliance) a year on your energy bills.”

There is no application process for the program, but certain guidelines do apply. Pick ups can be scheduled either on-line or by calling Focus on Energy at 855-398-5226. An Xcel Energy account number must be provided when requesting a pick up. To learn more about this program go to www.focusonenergy.com/residential/efficient-products-appliances/appliance-recycling.

Dunn Energy Cooperative

While anyone may recycle appliances for free at the Sears Hometown Store in Menomonie, an extra recycling incentive is offered to customers of Dunn Energy Cooperative. Members of the Cooperative may receive a \$25 rebate off their utility bill for each working refrigerator, freezer or air conditioner recycled. Written proof of recycling and a submitted form are required and rebates are in place through December 31, 2013 or until funds are depleted. Residents or businesses may participate and there is no limit to the number of qualifying items that may be recycled. While recycling through Menomonie Sears Hometown Store is free, participants are responsible for transporting items themselves. For more information call Dunn Energy Cooperative at 715-232-6240.

Through the end of 2013, refrigerators, freezers or air conditioners may also be recycled at the Dunn County Transfer Station or any Area Collection Station for a fee. Beginning January 1, 2014, however, Dunn County Solid Waste and Recycling will no longer charge a fee to recycle Freon appliances. Documentation (in the form of a receipt issued

by the attendant) for recycling refrigerators, freezers or air conditioners at these sites may be used to obtain a \$25 Dunn Energy credit as well.

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Photo caption: Sears Hometown Store Manger Jesse Pasek. Recycling old refrigerators or freezers at the Menomonie Sears Hometown Store can cut utility bills of Dunn Energy Cooperative customers.