

Rhode Island Energy Efficient Appliance Rebate Program



Introduction

Guide for Appliance Retailers

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 appropriated funds to each state for the establishment and administration of appliance rebate programs. The amount available to Rhode Island residents is \$882,000.

A goal of the program is to stimulate the economy by encouraging consumers to replace old appliances from an eligible appliance category with new energy efficient models. The State of Rhode Island expects a favorable response to this program that will exhaust the rebate funds quickly.

As a retailer serving Rhode Island residents, your role is to communicate the details of this program to consumers accurately. Please take time to familiarize yourself with this program using this guide and the web site as resources.

By working together, we can make this program a success for Rhode Island retailers and residents alike.

Sincerely,
Rhode Island - State Energy Office

Q & A

When does the program start and end?

This program begins March 25, 2010 and ends the instant the funds run out.

How do Rhode Island retailers prepare?

Designed to have minimal impact on your operations, this is a consumer program, not a retailer program. Retailers are encouraged to help Rhode Island residents understand the process. Rhode Island residents are responsible for applying correctly.

Who is eligible?

A Rhode Island resident with a valid Rhode Island residential address who follows the program's rules. All payments will be mailed to this address, with no exceptions. Retail employees meeting these criteria are also eligible. Receipts must show paid Rhode Island sales tax to qualify.

How do residents apply for these rebates?

Follow these steps in order:

1. Residents should check funds availability at www.RIrebates.com or by calling 1-877-359-5795.
2. Buy an eligible ENERGY STAR qualified product.
3. Apply for a rebate at the program's website or toll-free number.
4. Mail the required materials within 15 days of the online or phone application.

Where must a Rhode Island resident buy the product?

Rhode Island residents are to buy from Rhode Island retailers. Online purchases do not qualify.

How do we know if a product is ENERGY STAR qualified?

All products that have earned this certification feature the familiar ENERGY STAR logo on the front of the product and on the product packaging. If you are unsure, visit www.ENERGYSTAR.gov for a complete list of ENERGY STAR qualified products and models.

Can a retailer help a customer complete a rebate application?

Yes, and due to the expected response, it would be in your best interest to help residents apply immediately after the sale. The Rhode Island resident's name and address must be on the application, not the retailer's information.

What is the limit?

Residents may apply for one rebate per appliance per household. For example, one refrigerator rebate plus one dishwasher rebate would qualify. Applications for two dishwasher rebates would not qualify.

Is appliance recycling required to be eligible?

Residents must certify the new ENERGY STAR qualified appliance replaces an existing appliance, which is a key requirement of this program. Recycling is encouraged, but not required.

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Why is this a mail-in program instead of a discount?

This program's fixed budget requires rebate application processing on a first-come-first-serve basis. The method we chose guarantees a good rebate experience to Rhode Island retailers and residents. It also protects Rhode Island retailers from the potential frustration of retailer-administered programs.

How often are available funds updated?

They are calculated and communicated in real time at www.RIrebates.com and 1-877-632-8018.

What products qualify? (See chart below)

Select a category at www.RIrebates.com to display all the ENERGY STAR qualified product models. Another resource is www.ENERGYSTAR.gov.

Can a resident apply for the Rhode Island energy rebate and the manufacturer's or retailer's rebate on the same appliance?

Yes, but remind the resident that each rebate sponsor has unique rules and application instructions. All mailed energy rebate materials become Rhode Island's property and will not be returned, so help Rhode Island residents mail copies of the receipts/invoices, as the originals may be required for the other rebate offers.

How will applications be verified?

Every rebate application and the data it contains will be audited to verify the qualifying purchase and other requirements. Retailers in Rhode Island and neighboring states may be asked to provide occasional assistance and information as Rhode Island validates specific sales transactions.

Eligible ENERGY STAR Appliance Categories	Visa® Prepaid Rebate Value
Boilers (Gas)	\$500
Boilers (Oil)	\$500
Dishwashers	\$150
Freezers	\$150
Furnaces (Gas)	\$100
Furnaces (Oil)	\$100
Refrigerators (At least 18 cubic feet and priced over \$400)	\$150
Water Heaters (Gas Tankless)	\$300

Terms & Conditions

- Only ENERGY STAR product models in the specific categories listed above are eligible for Rhode Island's rebates. To determine a product model's ENERGY STAR certification, Rhode Island's agents will use product information available to the public at www.ENERGYSTAR.gov. Substitutions of products or product categories are not allowed. Call us at 1-877-632-8018 if you find an exception.
- By applying for a rebate and subsequently failing to satisfy each of the program requirements, an applicant gives up rights to the rebate and those rebate funds will no longer be available to the applicant.
- Purchases of products that are used, rebuilt, rented, leased, exchanged, won as a prize or purchased at auction or online auction are not eligible.
- Cards are issued by Citibank, N.A. pursuant to a license from Visa U.S.A. Inc and managed by Citi Prepaid Services. Cards will not have cash value and can be used everywhere Visa debit cards are accepted.
- The rights to a rebate or a rebate application may not be transferred or sold.
- Retailers may not apply for Rhode Island's energy rebate.
- Applications in excess of the limits are not allowed.
- Applications exceeding verifiable eligible purchases are not allowed.
- Fraud of any type could result in federal prosecution under the US mail fraud statutes.
- Rhode Island is not responsible for lost, late, damaged, illegible, misdirected or postage-due applications.
- Resolution of any disputes will be governed by Rhode Island law.