



# New Jersey Board of Public Utilities

## NEWS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release:**

July 13, 2012

**Contact:**

J. Gregory Reinert  
609-777-3305

### **New Jersey's Clean Energy Program on Quest to Find Oldest Fridge**

TRENTON, N.J. — The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (BPU) is on a quest to recycle New Jersey's oldest refrigerator or freezer and is offering a \$1,000 reward to do so. New Jersey's first ever Oldest Refrigerator Contest will run through this summer.

The owner of the oldest fridge recycled through the BPU's N.J. Clean Energy Program™ (NJCEP) will receive a \$1,000 gift card good toward ENERGY STAR® products at any New Jersey Sears store and the title of New Jersey's Oldest Refrigerator Contest Winner. The winner will be announced in October.

"Many customers don't realize how much money is wasted by old refrigerators or freezers lurking in garages or basements, but we make it easy for customers to part with that old unit and save money," said NJBPU President Robert M. Hanna. "This contest adds a fun side to helping New Jersey residents understand how to save energy and money."

To take part in the contest, appliance owners simply sign up through Sept. 30, 2012, to have their refrigerator or freezer recycled through New Jersey's Clean Energy Program by calling 877-270-3520 or visiting [www.NJCleanEnergy.com/refrigerator](http://www.NJCleanEnergy.com/refrigerator). The program is limited to removal of two units for each household. Appliances to be recycled must be in working order and between 10 and 30 cubic feet, using inside measurements.

Anyone can save money by unplugging an energy guzzling relic in their garage or basement. Owners of old outdated refrigerators can save up to \$150 dollars a year in energy costs and make some extra cash with a \$50 dollar reward by choosing to recycle.

Typically, appliances recycled through the program are outdated units that either sit unused or are kept for extra storage in garages and basements. But the convenience of chilling some extra beverages and a few leftovers can come with a steep price. Refrigerators manufactured before 1990 can use as much as three times more electricity than new appliances.

Units picked up through the program are transported to an East Brunswick manufacturing facility operated by JACO Environmental. JACO employs a system that safely removes hazardous materials from the old energy-guzzlers, while reclaiming 95 percent of the appliances for re-use in manufacturing new products. Even the foam insulation is safely incinerated to generate electricity to go back into the grid.

*New Jersey's Clean Energy Program* provides financial and other incentives to the state's residential customers, businesses and schools that install high-efficiency or renewable energy technologies. It is authorized and overseen by the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities.

For energy saving tips and more information about the NJBPU or its Clean Energy Programs, visit [NJCleanEnergy.com](http://NJCleanEnergy.com) or call 866-NJSMART.

###

**About the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU)**

*The NJBPU is a state agency and regulatory authority mandated to ensure safe, adequate and proper utility services at reasonable rates for New Jersey customers. Critical services regulated by the NJBPU include natural gas, electricity, water, wastewater, telecommunications and cable television. The Board has general oversight responsibility for monitoring utility service, responding to consumer complaints, and investigating utility accidents. To find out more about the NJBPU, visit our web site at [www.nj.gov/bpu](http://www.nj.gov/bpu).*

**About the New Jersey Clean Energy Program (NJCEP)**

*NJCEP, established on January 22, 2003, in accordance with the Electric Discount and Energy Competition Act (EDECA), provides financial and other incentives to the State's residential customers, businesses and schools that install high-efficiency or renewable energy technologies, thereby reducing energy usage, lowering customers' energy bills and reducing environmental impacts. The program is authorized and overseen by the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU), and its website is [www.NJCleanEnergy.com](http://www.NJCleanEnergy.com).*

###