

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS  
STATE ENERGY EFFICIENCY APPLIANCE REBATE PROGRAM (SEEARP)  
CASH FOR APPLIANCES  
(Current as of 3/8/10)

**Q: When will the rebates be available?**

A: The official start of Washington's Cash for Appliances program is **March 15, 2010**. Rebates will be available on qualified purchases made **starting March 15, 2010**.

**Q: Will rebates be available retroactively?**

A: **No**. Purchase **must** be made during the program period which starts March 15, 2010, and runs through December 31, 2011, or until funds run out, whichever occurs first.

**Q: What appliances will receive rebates and how much?**

A:

- ENERGY STAR Refrigerators (greater than 9 cubic feet adjusted volume): \$75  
[http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?fuseaction=find\\_a\\_product.showProductGroup&pgw\\_code=RF](http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?fuseaction=find_a_product.showProductGroup&pgw_code=RF)
- ENERGY STAR Clothes Washers (efficiency rating MEF $\geq$ 2.46, WF $\leq$ 4.0): \$100  
[http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?fuseaction=find\\_a\\_product.showProductGroup&pgw\\_code=CW](http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?fuseaction=find_a_product.showProductGroup&pgw_code=CW)

**NOTE:** *The web-sites listed provide all ENERGY STAR products. Please look for those appliances meeting the qualifications noted above to qualify for Washington's Cash for Appliances program.*

**Q: What are the eligibility requirements for this recovery fund program?**

A: The eligibility requirements set forth by ARRA and Washington's SEEARP include:

- Rebates are available to all Washington State consumers on a first come, first served basis until funds run out.
- Rebates are NOT available retroactively for purchases made before the official start of the program.
- Rebates are for the replacement of existing appliances in residential occupancies in Washington.
- Rebates are limited to one refrigerator and one clothes washer per household.
- Rebates are for appliances purchased from a Washington State store or where proof of payment of Washington State sales tax is evident on the receipt.
- To receive the state rebate for a refrigerator, proof must be provided that the replaced refrigerator was recycled, or at least decommissioned in accordance with state disposal laws.
- Rebates cannot be paid to commercial or institutional organizations, Community Action agencies, new construction, or landlords.

**Q. Where, how and when do I apply for the rebate?**

A. The rebate application and instructions will be available on line at [www.CashforAppliancesWA.com](http://www.CashforAppliancesWA.com). The web-site is under development and will be available closer to the official start of the program (March 15, 2010).

Application Instructions will include:

1. Download the official Cash for Appliances Washington rebate application from [www.CashforAppliancesWA.com](http://www.CashforAppliancesWA.com).
2. Complete and sign the official rebate application. Make a copy for your records.
3. Attach a copy of an electric utility bill or State I.D. showing current address as proof of residency.
4. Attach a copy of your sales receipt for the qualifying appliance. The receipt must be dated and separately list the appliance. If the receipt does not include proof of payment of Washington State sales tax please include a Consumer Use Tax form or receipt from the Washington State Department of Revenue.
5. Applications for refrigerators must also include proof the appliance was properly recycled/disposed pursuant to state law.
6. Mail the completed application form, copy of appliance sales receipt and recycler's receipt (if applicable) to: Cash for Appliances Washington – Address to be provided closer to the official start date of March 15, 2010.

Please allow 4 - 6 weeks to receive your rebate. Incomplete or invalid applications will not be accepted and will invalidate the rebate.

**Q: Will rebates be available for new construction?**

A: **No.** U.S. Department of Energy requires us to restrict the program to replacement of existing appliances. One of the goals of the program is to remove old, inefficient appliances from the electric grid.

**Q. How much money is available?**

A. The funding available for rebates to consumers is approximately \$5,607,450.

**Q: Why these appliances?**

A: In determining which appliances to include in the rebate program, Commerce considered the objectives of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, State Energy Efficiency Appliance Rebate Program and the amount of money available, as well as the goals of the 6th Northwest Power Plan. In doing our research we received input from the state's electric, gas and municipal utilities recommending that a majority of the funding be used for the replacement of older clothes washers with new higher efficiency clothes washers as this is where Washington would experience the biggest savings in electricity, water and waste treatment. One of the goals of the program is to introduce consumers to these new higher efficiency clothes washers and create a market transformation bringing significant long term benefits to Washington. Refrigerators were included based upon research, as well as feedback from retailers and utilities, regarding the potential energy savings for consumers.

**Q. Who is eligible for this recovery fund program and what can this money be used for?**

A. On October 15, 2009, the Department of Commerce (Commerce) submitted a proposal to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) for participation in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funded State Energy Efficiency Appliance Rebate Program (SEEARP). Approval was received November 2009, authorizing development and implementation of this program.

Individual residential consumers in Washington replacing existing refrigerators and clothes washers with Energy Efficient appliances will be the final benefactors of the appliance rebate funds. These funds will supplement existing rebate programs. Our goal is to have a program that makes it easy for consumers to obtain both incentives. The program plans to make consumer rebates available on March 15, 2010.

*Please Note: In many cases your local utility already provides generous appliance and equipment rebates. Check out [www.opalco.com](http://www.opalco.com) for rebates and incentives available.*

**Q. What is Washington State Department of Commerce role in distributing the money?**

A. Washington State Department of Commerce will facilitate the distribution of money through an experienced rebate processing company. This company will leverage and enhance existing marketing efforts being implemented by Washington utilities and retailers to reduce administrative costs and maximize funds available for consumer rebates. Commerce is responsible for tracking funds and reporting to DOE.

**Q. Are there any other rules or obligations I need to know about?**

A. Most importantly, remember that rebates will not be available retroactively, rebates will not be available for new homes and the rebates are limited to qualified appliances. U.S Department of Energy requires us to restrict the program to replacement of existing appliances. Any additional rules or obligations will be publicized as appropriate.

**Q. I still have questions about the Appliance Rebate Program. Who do I contact to get more information?**

A. Rebecca Stillings, Program Manager  
State Energy Efficiency Appliance Rebate Program (SEEARP)  
360-725-3123 or e-mail: [rebecca.stillings@commerce.wa.gov](mailto:rebecca.stillings@commerce.wa.gov)