



The New Hampshire Office of Energy and Planning

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**OEP Develops \$1.2 Million Appliance Rebate Plan
To Help Homeowners Save on Their Energy Bills**

CONCORD, N.H., Oct. 15, 2009 – The Office of Energy and Planning has submitted a \$1.2 million plan to the U.S. Department of Energy for an appliance rebate program that will help New Hampshire homeowners reduced their energy bills for the long term.

The innovative proposal, developed in collaboration with a variety of stakeholders, will offer \$1.2 million in rebates to New Hampshire residents for the purchase and installation of solar-thermal hot-water systems and for upgrading heating systems, including boilers, furnaces and hot-water heaters to more energy-efficient models.

“New Hampshire has designed an energy efficient appliance rebate plan that will leverage current rebates and programs available to New Hampshire residents, thereby enhancing the impact of the state’s \$1.2 million rebate program,” said Joanne Morin, director of the Office of Energy and Planning. “In addition, the plan will generate new opportunities related to energy consumption and green jobs and will meet the demand in the market for more energy efficient heating systems and solar-hot water heaters.”

New Hampshire expects to realize a significant level of energy savings with its plan, which will complement the state’s existing rebate programs for other appliances such as air conditioners and washing machines. By leveraging existing programs such as the Renewable Portfolio Standard-funded programs, System Benefits Charges and federal tax credits, OEP has developed a plan that will maximize the environmental and economic impacts of this rebate program, while ensuring the state meets the DOE’s objectives of achieving the greatest possible energy savings, and stimulating economic activity and job creation.

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The rebate program will help stimulate the economy, even beyond equipment retailers and manufacturers. The equipment purchased by consumers will require, in most instances, professional installation. The plan will also build on New Hampshire's efforts to increase the state's use of renewable energy instead of fossil fuels.

The rebate will be available to New Hampshire residents who are replacing an existing heating system listed under the program. Savings for residents, in some instances, would be as high as 50 percent for replacing a wasteful and inefficient hot-water heater, boiler or furnace. The program will be available to all New Hampshire residents, including municipal utility ratepayers.

Given the high market value for recycled steel and copper and an existing infrastructure is in place to process these materials, OEP anticipates a high percentage of inefficient appliances under this rebate program will be recycled.

OEP anticipates a decision on its proposal from DOE by the end of the year. If approved, rebates are expected to be available in early 2010 through late 2012 or until funding is depleted, whichever comes first.

For more detailed information on this rebate program, please visit OEP's Web site at <http://www.nh.gov/oep/recovery/seearp.htm>.

On the Net:

For more details on OEP's Appliance Rebate plan, please visit our Web site at <http://www.nh.gov/oep/> or contact Kate Vattes at 271-0598 or Kathleen.vattes@nh.gov.

Renewable Portfolio Standard Act:
<http://www.puc.nh.gov/Sustainable%20Energy/SustainableEnergy.htm>

nhsaves.com <http://nhsaves.com/>

About Joanne Morin

Joanne Morin serves as the director of the Office of Energy and Planning. Morin recently served as the Climate and Energy Program Manager in the Air Resources Division of the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, where she worked closely with the Office of Energy and Planning. Morin is a graduate of the University of New Hampshire, and received a master's degree in biology from the State University of New York in Binghamton.