



## **News from the Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders**

Public Information Contacts: Linda Van Zandt / **Joanne Vuoso** / Lisa Krueger  
908.231.7020 publicinfo@co.somerset.nj.us

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### **Freeholders Encourage Residents to Recycle Old Refrigerators, Freezers**

The Somerset County Board of Freeholders encourages residents to take advantage of the New Jersey Clean Energy Program new Refrigerator/Freezer Recycling Program. Under the program, residents can turn in old, working refrigerators and freezers and in return receive \$30, plus free and safe removal of the old appliance, which will be recycled.

“It makes sense for residents to take advantage of this program, since older models of refrigerators and freezers use far more electricity than newer ones,” said Freeholder Robert Zaborowski, recycling division liaison. “For instance, appliances manufactured before 1990 use about three times more electricity, which can equate to about \$150 a year to run.”

Since 2001, federal standards require new refrigerators and freezers to be more energy efficient. Newer models use about 450 kilowatt-hours (kWh) annually, whereas older units can use up to 1,500 kWh annually.

In addition, when improperly discarded or dumped in landfills, older refrigerators and freezers can leak toxic substances into the environment. Also, foam insulation and coolant oils that are exposed to the air can increase the buildup of greenhouse gases.

To qualify, refrigerators and freezers must be in working order with an inside measurement of 10 cubic feet or more. The program is limited to removal of two units per household.

The program contractor, JACO Environmental, will pick up appliances and recycle them at its East Brunswick, N.J., facility, with no charge to residents.

To schedule a pick up for recycling, residents can call 877-270-3520 or visit [www.NJCleanEnergy.com](http://www.NJCleanEnergy.com). Residents will receive a check for \$30 within 90 to 120 days after collection of an appliance.

**Rick Fontana, Freeholder Director \* Jack M. Ciattarelli, Freeholder Deputy Director  
Peter S. Palmer, Freeholder \* Robert Zaborowski, Freeholder \* Patricia L. Walsh, Freeholder**  
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